



Daily Report

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15 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD151300 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Tanker Attacks—The Kuwaiti Defense Ministry announced that an Iranian missile hit the U.S.-owned tanker *Sungari* in Kuwaiti territorial waters 15 October, KUNA reported. The report added that Kuwait urged the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to speed up the implementation of Resolution 598. Tehran radio acknowledged the attack citing press agency reports that the Liberian-registered tanker was hit by a Silkworm missile close to the Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi. Official Kuwaiti oil sources denied a *Reuter* report that the Al-Ahmadi oil refinery was closed down after the attack, KUNA noted.

Both Iran and Iraq acknowledged the attack on the Liberian-registered tanker *Atlantic Peace* in the southern Gulf 14 October, however Tehran radio reported that the ship was attacked by "a number of warships," while Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced that the attack was carried out by an Iranian speedboat.

INA reported that Iraqi aircraft had scored an "accurate and effective hit" on a tanker east of the Iranian oil terminal on Khark Island 14 October. Voice of the Masses radio announced that shipping sources confirmed that the Liberian-registered tanker *Bezatoz* was hit by an Iraqi missile.

Baghdad Missile Aftermath—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz circulated a letter in the United Nations on the "further odious crime" of the Iranian regime in its 13 October missile attack which resulted in the deaths of 32 people, INA reported. Meanwhile, "hundreds of thousands" of Baghdad citizens marched through the streets in a funeral for those killed in the attack, INA noted.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is suffering from a blood clot on his brain, according to information obtained by the FRG magazine *Bild*, which added that a team of Swiss physicians has flown to Tehran to treat Khomeini.

Lebanon

SLA Forces Withdraw—SLA forces withdrew from Talat al-Huqban in southern Lebanon where a Nepalese UNIFIL soldier was killed recently, the Israeli paper *Ma'ariv* reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that 5 Amal Movement members were killed and 10 were wounded when a landmine exploded as Amal tried to occupy the position before UNIFIL forces took control as planned. Beirut radio also reported the blast, but asserted that casualties only consisted of four Amal members wounded.

Fighting East of Sidon—Representatives of the Unification and Liberation Front and Palestinians met and agreed on an immediate cease-fire to fighting between Amal Movement and Palestinian forces east of Sidon, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. Meanwhile, the Amal Movement threatened to wage a "major offensive" to regain positions held by Palestinian forces east of Sidon if the meeting did not call for the Palestinians' immediate withdrawal from those positions, Radio Free Lebanon added.

Iranian Embassy on Camps—A religious delegation from Sidon met with the Iranian ambassador in Beirut and discussed the need to end the clashes in the Palestinian refugee camps as well as to start immediate negotiations between the parties fighting east of Sidon, Tehran radio announced.

Hizballah on Hostages—A Hizballah official said that the hostages whose executions or deaths were "announced previously" are still alive and are being held in Beirut's southern suburbs, according to the Lebanese weekly *Al-Nahar Al-'Arabi wa al-Duwali*.

Syria

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri arrived at the head of a delegation to hold talks, Damascus radio reported.

Kuwait

Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifa, currently visiting Moscow, discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, TASS reported. Earlier in the day, Al-Khalifa held talks on economic issues with the Soviet foreign trade and petroleum ministers, KUNA noted.

Egypt

USSR First Deputy Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived in Cairo and held opening talks with Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, Cairo radio announced. The radio also reported that the Soviet official described the talks, which covered the situation in the Persian Gulf as well as convening an international conference on the Middle East, as "extremely good."

GCC Meeting

The GCC interior ministers meeting in the UAE concluded 2 days of talks on regional security and the escalating tension in the Gulf, KUNA reported. GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah announced after the meeting that a GCC summit will be held in Riyadh 26 December, KUNA also noted.

Israel

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asserted that the current wave of unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip may have been instigated from abroad in advance of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' visit, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

Sudan

Relief Convoy Attacked—Omdurman radio reported that SPLA forces numbering 4,000 ambushed a convoy of "relief trains" which was being guarded by government troops who confronted the rebel forces inflicting "great material losses on them."

Libyan Presence Denied—Acting Foreign Minister Adam Madibu told a Sudanese paper cited by SUNA that there is no Libyan military presence on Sudanese territory

Tunisia-Libya

President Habib Bourguiba authorized the reopening of the consulate-general in Tripoli, Tunis radio announced.

Afghanistan

The Foreign Ministry "strongly" protested Pakistani firing on DRA border posts in Nangarhar Province, Kabul radio announced, adding that the DRA rejected allegations of shelling Pakistani border areas.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi Terms Iraqi School Attack 'Scandalous'
LD141819 Kuwait KUNA in English 1736 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, Oct 14 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi described the Iranian carnage against the Iraqi elementary school as a scandalous encroachment upon the Islamic teachings and the fundamental human principles.

In a statement issued here today, Klibi said that attack against the school reasserts the malicious intentions of Tehran against Baghdad and should urge the international community to intensify efforts of ending the Gulf conflict.

Thirty two Iraqis were killed, most of them school pupils and more than 200 injured when an Iranian missile hit the Baghdad-based elementary school of "Balat al-Shuhada". The crime raised world-wide condemnation.

Islamic World League Holds Conference in Mecca

King Fahd Welcoming Remarks

LD112300 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Excerpts] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over the Third International Conference of the Islamic World League in the holy city of Mecca on Sunday, 11 October. [passage omitted] Afterward, the king made the following improvised speech:

[Begin Fahd recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, and peace be upon his last messenger, our master and prophet Muhammad, God bless him and grant him salvation.

I am happy, on this blessed night, to be fortunate enough to find myself among dear brothers, and on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its government and people, I welcome all the brothers who have come from various parts of the earth to attend this Islamic conference. [passage omitted]

Our aim is not to interfere in the affairs of any state nor to stir up trouble against this state or its rulers, but the main objective of this conference and of the Islamic World League is to urge people to do good and to follow the right path, in accordance with the foundations and rules laid down in God's book and his prophet's teachings. [passage omitted]

The existence of this League does not mean interference in anybody's affairs, and I do not believe that this is one of its objectives. But it has been based in this holy country, which God has blessed with many fortunes and which He declared the direction which Muslims turn to in prayer. [passage omitted]

We are fine and if we deviate from the right path, God forbid, that will be the worst evil. He who reflects on the Muslim faith and immerses himself in it will find that it is the best path and the safest road in this world and in the hereafter. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Fahd Speaks on Muslims' Tasks

LD131529 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, affirmed that the Islamic nation faces serious challenges that require more solidarity, vigilance, and caution in order to prevent any harm that may come to the immortal Islamic faith and to combat the sowing of sedition in the Muslim ranks or the portraying of the Islamic nation in a way that does not conform with its immortal mission.

This was stated in a statement to the chief editor of the newspaper 'Ukaz by the custodian of the two holy mosques following the king's opening of the Third International Islamic Conference of the Islamic World League on Sunday in holy Mecca. It was published by the newspaper today.

He pointed out the enormity of the responsibility shouldered by the Islamic states, bodies, and organizations, such as the Islamic World League, the ICO, the Supreme Council of Mosques, the Islamic Jurisprudence Academy, the Islamic Development Bank, and similar institutions, and their role in standing up to sedition and in protecting the Islamic peoples, who believe in God and his prophet, Muhammad, and in Islam as a faith, a doctrine, and a code of life which is complete, indivisible, and cannot tolerate sectarianism, racism, or factionalism—a faith that stands up to the problems of life and manages the affairs of citizens and the lands, spreading justice, peace, and tranquility in various regions of the world.

His majesty said that the Islamic World League and the other Islamic bodies and organizations are working selflessly and sincerely to spread the Islamic faith and to entrench its immortal ideals, principles, and values in various parts of the world on sound, proper, and constructive foundations. They also devote their efforts and attention to the affairs of Muslims and to taking care of their interests in cooperation with the Islamic countries.

His majesty added that these bodies and organizations today are aware more than at any time in the past that their responsibilities have increased in order to confront the numerous false currents and claims and to protect Islamic societies and guard them against extremism, insensibility, and abnormal practices so that the peoples of this nation may not suffer ills that could affect the ethics and nature of the Muslim man.

His majesty wished the Islamic World League and those who are serving it all success and progress in continuing the march along the road drawn up by the Islamic faith and desired by the people of the great Islamic nation.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Spokesman on Sidon Events, Agreement

JN131950 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1814 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Statement by PLO official spokesman—date and place not given]

[Text] Following the fabricated clamor about the recent incidents which took place east of Sidon, we would like to clarify the following:

1. The east Sidon incidents came as a result of an inconceivable, unjustified action by the Amal Movement forces, which suddenly withdrew from some positions opposite the agent Lahd and Zionist enemy. This opened a very wide gap threatening the nationalist forces' positions and the Palestinian camps in the Sidon area. The Palestinian leadership in Sidon called on the nationalist forces to assume their responsibilities to close this gap or persuade the Amal Movement to return its forces to this area. The Palestinian Revolutionary Forces sent some observers until the Nasirite Popular Liberation Army could take this area over. We were surprised afterward by an attack launched by the Amal forces on the Nasirite Popular Army, starting a wide-scale battle in that area.

2. As announced earlier, the PLO affirms that it does not favor any extension or expansion outside the framework of the legitimate defense of our camps in accordance with the 11 September 1987 agreement. Therefore, the PLO calls for a resolution of this problem within the framework of and in cooperation with the Unification and Liberation Front.

3. Once again, we stress adherence to the 11 September 1987 agreement. We call for restraint from using these incidents as a pretext for obstructing the implementation of the agreement. The brothers in the Amal Movement have so far not started to implement any articles of this agreement. Moreover, some Amal Movement groups exploited the situation, continued their siege, shelled the Shatila camp, and brought back an atmosphere of military tension without any justification for the past 2 weeks.

Therefore, we stress the need to resume dialogue between the Palestinian delegation and the Unification and Liberation Front, including the Amal Movement, under the patronage of Brother Mustafa Sa'd [secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization] to end these bloody incidents and safeguard Palestinian and Lebanese blood as well as the two fraternal peoples' interests.

4. The PLO reiterates its eagerness to adhere to resolving all emerging problems with a spirit of joint militant brotherhood and solidarity against the Zionist enemy, which continues its attacks on our camps and southern Lebanon. Therefore, the PLO reiterates its readiness to tackle all differences with the same spirit that governed dialogue during the past years. Revolution until victory.

Amal 'Escalation' Noted

*JN132024 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1814 GMT 13 Oct 87*

[Statement by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces—date, place not given]

[Text] After the repeated incidents in our forces' area of action in confrontation of the Zionist enemy and agent Lahd—incidents that have become an arena for allegations and accusations by some parties—the Palestinian

military leadership in the Sidon area, which held an emergency meeting at 0700 hours 11 October 1987, wishes to explain the following:

After the Amal Movement evacuated the Wadi al-Laymun axis, this axis became a source of threat to the nationalist positions in east Sidon area. Therefore, the Palestinian military leadership found itself dutybound to close this gap. In response to the stand of the leadership of the Nasirite Popular Organization stressing the need to clear this area of the Palestinian military presence, the area was handed to the martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces, which closed this gap in front of agent Lahd.

This incident was preceded by a clear escalation by the Amal Movement on all combat axes, a tightening of the siege around the Shatila, Al-Burj, and Al-Rashidiyah camps, and the Amal Movement's clear procrastination in implementing the 11 September 1987 meeting and evading meetings scheduled between the two [Palestinian and Lebanese] delegations.

The Amal Movement has persisted in its aggressive policy against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. It attacked the positions of the martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces, which have for 4 years shouldered the task of confronting the agent forces and defending Sidon and its vicinity. This criminal action is alien to national ethics, Arabism, and Islam. While affirming adherence to the Unification and Liberation Front's national decision, we affirm that the Palestinian Revolution Forces in Sidon area are under the command of Brother Commander Mustafa Sa'd [secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization]. They are prepared to implement his orders in confronting all plots and dangers posed by the Zionist enemy and its agents to heroic, nationalist Sidon.

PLO Central Council Issues Communiqué

*JN091805 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 9 Oct 87*

[“Final communiqué” issued by the PLO Central Council on its meetings in Tunis from 5-7 October; read by announcer]

[Text] With God's help and success, the PLO Central Council held its first session following the 18th PNC session—the session of national unity and the steadfastness of the refugee camps and the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied territory—in fraternal and hospitable Tunisia from 5-7 October 1987. The PLO Central Council met under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC chairman. Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, attended. The PLO Central Council embodied the national unity that was consolidated and strengthened by the cohesion with and the complete national rallying around the PLO.

At the beginning of its first session, the Central Council noted with pride, on behalf of our people, its profound gratitude to the steadfast Palestinian forces, leaders, and masses in the refugee camps and the occupied territory. They fought, struggled, stood fast, and successfully led the national dialogue that culminated in the 18th PNC session, the session of national unity. The 18th PNC session constituted a decisive turning point in the history of the contemporary Palestinian revolution.

The first session of the newly composed PLO Central Council was a national and unionist occasion for the convergence and reaction of Palestinian nationalist and struggling forces, factions, and figures. It was conducted in a democratic climate reflecting a solid policy, a spirit of great responsibility, and a national commitment. This enabled the Central Council to carry out a deep and responsible study of the political, military, and organizational situation of the PLO. It also allowed the Council to comprehensively examine the situation of the Palestinian people standing fast inside the occupied territory, in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, and in the host Arab countries, as well as the situation of Palestinian communities throughout the world.

The PLO Central Council listened to the comprehensive political report submitted by Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. The report analyzes and explains the Palestinian situation following the 18th PNC session. This session embodied our people's determination to continue their struggle, confront challenges, and support the unity of the PLO along the path of self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In light of the report and the discussion by the council members, the PLO Central Council declares the following:

1. The Occupied Homeland.

The Central Council reviewed the racist Zionist actions against our people—the repression, intimidation, deportation, arrests, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the stealing of water, the establishment of settlements, and the Judaization of holy places.

The Council discussed the calls by Zionists and settlers to expel our people from their homeland. The Council also studied the Zionist schemes which the enemy continues to impose on our masses within the framework of the plot of sharing of functions to create artificial substitutes. The Council emphasized the need to draw up a comprehensive program to confront the abovementioned Zionist policy and to refer this serious matter to the forthcoming Arab summit and to international institutions and organizations.

The PLO Central Council expressed its pride with and appreciation for the continued national steadfastness in the face of Israeli enemy designs. The Council paid tribute to the continued national uprising of the masses of our people and the steadfastness of our heroes in the prisons of the occupation authorities. The Central Council urged that practical plans be drawn up to support the steadfastness of our people and to strengthen the unity of our people's institutions and mass organizations. The Central Council also urged that plans be made to deepen the reaction between our people inside and outside the occupied territory. The Central Council praised the formation of the Committee of National Action for the Occupied Territory.

2. The Palestinian Camps in Lebanon.

The Central Council discussed at length the painful, inhuman situation in the steadfast Palestinian camps in the face of the 3-year aggression and siege which have been imposed on them. The Council urged the humanitarian Arab and international bodies to intensify their efforts to stop the aggression and immediately lift the siege. The Council asked this to enable our besieged people to repair their houses and their paralyzed hospitals and schools and to live a free, honorable life. The Council also discussed the agreement which was signed in Sidon on 11 September 1987 to resume the good relations between the camps and their perimeters.

The Council stressed the need to implement this agreement with its scheduled priorities. These priorities are considered a new beginning for Lebanese-Palestinian relations. The Council also stressed the need to forget the past and to turn over a new leaf based on brotherhood, amity, and the exploitation of all energies and rifles to repel the Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon. Within this framework, the Council highly praised the PLO Executive Committee decision to form the leadership of the Palestinian national action in Lebanon which includes all the Palestinian forces and factions and to form a military command. The Council considered the formation of these two leaderships as a vital expression of the solidity and strength of the Palestinian national unity epitomized by the PNC's 18th session.

3. The General Political Situation.

Regarding the emergency summit in Amman, the Central Council welcomed the Arab foreign ministers' decision to call for the convening of an Arab summit in Amman in November. It views this decision as an expression of the pressing pan-Arab necessity. This was especially true after our nation suffered from a continuation of divisions and peripheral conflicts. These divisions came at a time when the imperialist and Zionist onslaught were escalating to strike at the steadfast positions in our nation one after another.

The Central Council also stressed that the restoration of Arab solidarity is a top pan-Arab priority. The Council added that the current deterioration in the Arab situation requires the reaffirmation and strengthening of the pan-Arab position toward the Palestine question expressed by the successive Arab summits. The summits also expressed their firm pan-Arab commitment to the Palestinian people and their organization and inalienable national rights, foremost of which are the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent Palestinian state. The Council also urged the PLO Executive Committee to achieve that goal.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the Council followed up with concern the grave deterioration in the Gulf region as a result of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the continued concentration of U.S. fleets. Therefore, it urged Iran to immediately halt the war and implement Security Council Resolution No 598. It also urged Iran to announce its readiness to settle the dispute between the two countries through peaceful means so amity and peace may prevail, especially since Iraq has announced its acceptance of all peace initiatives including the international resolution. It also urged this because the continuation of this war serves only colonialism, imperialism, and Zionism and will severely damage the Palestine question.

The PLO Central Council studied closely and in depth the international resolutions, plans, and proposals to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. The Council urged the PLO Executive Committee to intensify its efforts and contacts to convene the conference with full powers. The Un General Assembly, the nonaligned summit, the Islamic summit, the African summit, the Arab summit, the socialist countries, the EEC states, and all other friendly countries have supported the convening of such a conference.

The Central Council emphasized the need for unified Arab action to support the convening of an effective international conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the permanent member states of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict. The PLO would be included among these parties on an equal footing to achieve the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. These rights include their right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent Palestinian state on their national Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as its capital. The Central Council rejected Israeli and U.S. attempts to divest the international conference of its objectives and to turn it into an umbrella for separate deals.

4. The PLO's Arab and International Relations.

The Central Council was briefed on the sincere efforts made by the PLO Executive Committee to implement PNC resolutions on strengthening PLO relations with the fraternal Arab countries. The Council praised the good efforts to achieve Arab solidarity opposed to imperialism and Zionism.

The Central Council condemned the consistently hostile stands adopted by the United States toward the PLO. The latest of such stands was the closure of the PLO information office in Washington. The Council believes that such a hostile U.S. policy converges with the abortive attempts to hide the truth from U.S. public opinion.

The Central Council saluted the principled stands of the friendly socialist countries, the nonaligned states, Muslim, African, and friendly countries, and all liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The PLO Central Council extended congratulations and greetings to the peoples of the friendly Soviet Union on the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the glorious October Revolution.

At the conclusion of its meetings, the PLO Central Council extended a sincere fraternal greeting to Tunisia, its president, government, and people, for the generous hospitality accorded to our Central Council while convening its session in the Tunisian capital.

'Arafat, Habash Discuss Ties With Syria
PM131353 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 5 Oct 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Syrian Initiative for Rapprochement With PLO Carried by Habash"]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian Central Council (PCC), which represents all of the Palestinian factions and organizations, began its meetings today in Tunis presided over by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Informed Palestinian sources stressed the importance of these meetings, which coincide with news of joint Syrian-Palestinian ideas being put forward to settle relations between Damascus and the PLO leadership, which have been tense for 4 years.

Those sources have reported that these ideas were the subject of a meeting over the past 2 days between 'Arafat and PFLP Secretary General George Habash, who arrived in Tunis from Damascus to participate in the Tunis meetings. Dr George Habash's deputy, Executive Committee and PCC member Abu 'Ali Mustafa, participated in the meeting.

Dr Habash is one of those who believe in the need to strengthen Syrian-Palestinian relations and reconcile the views of the two leaderships. Before his journey to Tunis he met with top-level Syrian leaders.

In their statement to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, the Palestinian sources stressed the importance of the PFLP leader's present role between Damascus and the Palestinian leadership. They indicated that during his meeting with leaders in Damascus, Syrian ideas on rapprochement

with the PLO were discussed and that these were the ideas which the Executive Committee was told of yesterday evening at the start of its 2-day meetings alongside the PCC meetings.

Palestinian circles expect representatives of the PFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, but without Al-Sa'iqah and the PFLP-General Command, to participate in the PCC meetings. [passage omitted]

'Arafat on Arab League Membership for Egypt
NC071017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 7 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—PLO [Executive Committee] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that renewing allegiance to President Mubarak for a second term of office is a matter of interest to the Arab nation as much as it is to the Egyptian people. He said that during his first term, Mubarak proved to be a leader who understands the aspirations of his people and his nation, honors their trust, and shoulders his responsibility with complete honesty, faith, and zeal. [passage omitted]

In an interview with today's issue of the Egyptian weekly *Akhir Sa'ah*, Yasir 'Arafat stated: The Palestinian people in particular will not forget President Mubarak's courageous and principled stands in defense of our people's right to self-determination. He is our brother and the source of strong support for us and for the Palestinian cause.

The Palestinian leader described Egyptian-Palestinian relations as being at their zenith at present.

Responding to a question on Egypt's return to the Arab League, 'Arafat said: I can state categorically that there was no decision to expel Egypt from the Arab League. All decisions pertaining to the acceptance or rejection of membership in this organization must be unanimous. It should be recalled that the decision to expel Egypt from the Arab League was not unanimous.

'Arafat said that Egypt's presence in the Arab League and in the center of the Arab struggle is the "tent peg" without which the tent falls apart. He stressed that there can be no war nor peace without Egypt, and that any Arab action without Egypt is hopeless. This is the ultimate fact that rises above all other considerations, whether some people like it or not, the PLO chairman added.

'Arafat said that if this issue is raised at the next Arab summit, he will express his opinion, the thrust of which, he predicted, will surprise everyone.

The PLO chairman expressed his belief that the chances of convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East are stronger than ever. He pointed out in this regard that the U.S. Administration continues to approve of such a concept. 'Arafat added that the only

difference between us and the U.S. Administration is on the form that conference takes. He emphasized that the required international conference should be an effective one and should be attended by permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned with the dispute, including the PLO.

In conclusion, 'Arafat noted the division within the Israeli Government and stressed that it is unable to find the proper approach to peace.

Combat Group Attacks Israeli Patrol Near Gaza
*JN081918 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1810 GMT 8 Oct 87*

["Text" of communique issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command—date, place not given]

[Text] Pursuant to the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command's instructions and out of faith in our people's legitimate right to armed struggle, one of our combat groups from the unit of martyr Commander Sa'd Sayil, operating inside the occupied homeland, ambushed an enemy patrol on the highway west of the city of Gaza after a comprehensive reconnaissance of the operation area.

At 2215 on 6 October, our heroes attacked a Zionist security vehicle with machineguns and hand grenades, and killed all enemy personnel, including a Zionist Shin Bet officer. Enemy forces, police, and border guards besieged the group's personnel during its withdrawal. Our heroes clashed with them with all types of weapons for more than 20 minutes. The enemy forces used vehicles and fired arbitrarily at citizens. As a result, several Palestinian citizens were martyred or wounded. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs. Revolution until victory.

2 'Zionist' Officers Killed
*JN122102 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1815 GMT 12 Oct 87*

[Statement by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date, place not given]

[Text] Our revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland detonated remote-controlled bombs while a Zionist military vehicle carrying two Zionist officers was on a road near the city of Haifa, which was occupied in 1948. They did so pursuant to instructions and after accurate reconnaissance of Zionist officers' moves in and near the city of Haifa. The explosion completely destroyed the vehicle and immediately killed the two officers. Our revolutionaries withdrew safely after successfully carrying out their operation.

A spokesman for the Zionist police has admitted the killing of the two officers without giving further details. Revolution until victory.

OPEC Affairs

Iran's Aqazadeh Welcomes Chairman, Delegation
*LD120009 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT
11 Oct 87*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—A delegation led by chairman of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Rilwanu Lukman, arrived here from Doha, Qatar today and was received by Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh at the airport.

The delegation includes Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto and Venezuelan Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti.

Upon his arrival, the OPEC chairman Lukman told reporters that the OPEC is trying to reach a new agreement concerning production ceiling and individual quotas.

Lukman did not elaborate on the outcome of his visit to Iraq, but stressed that OPEC's supervision committee expects all member states including Iraq to abide by their quotas.

Lukman said the delegation is seeking three goals in its visits which include full support of the member states for the current OPEC agreement, preparation of suitable grounds for the forthcoming OPEC meeting as well as drawing members' attention to a new agreement which [word indistinct] to be reached.

The supervision committee is also to pay visits to Algeria, Libya, Ecuador, Indonesia and Venezuela in November followed by similar trips to Nigeria and Gabon in early December, said the chairman, noting that outcome of these visits will be studied in the next OPEC session to be held in Vienna on 9 December.

On Iraq's violation of OPEC decisions, Lukman said it is not the only issue in OPEC but that there exist other issues, however, he did not elaborate.

The chairman's reference was probably to other member countries who have overproduced according to the [word indistinct] statistics.

During its visit here the OPEC delegates will hold talks with President Ali Khamene'i and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. It had visited Saudi Arabia, [words indistinct] United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iraq and Qatar before coming to Iran.

Multi-state Talks Reviewed

*LD150933 Vienna OPECNA in English 0823 GMT
15 Oct 87*

[Excerpt] Vienna, 15 Oct (OPECNA)—The OPEC Ministerial Committee which has just concluded the first phase of its tour of the organization's member countries in the Gulf had 'extremely fruitful discussions' with the respective heads of state, according to OPEC Conference President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, chairman of the committee.

The OPEC president said in a statement released here today that the committee was most gratified to be able to hold such discussions with 'the highest political authorities in these member countries'.

Beside meeting the oil ministers of the Gulf member countries, the committee also had audience with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran.

The committee's members feel re-assured and encouraged as a result of the very positive and cooperative atmosphere which was shown throughout these visits and which would enable the organization not only to deal with the present problems arising from implementing the agreements reached in December 1986 and June 1987, but also, and more importantly, to prepare the grounds for the next meeting of the conference in which a workable agreement for 1988 would be formulated, the OPEC conference president said.

'Staunch support was clearly manifested by the heads of state as the only means to strengthen and promote the organization's aim of achieving worldwide stability in the oil market, in the interests of OPEC member countries themselves as well as other energy producers,' he pointed out.

He disclosed that the committee intended to undertake the second phase of its 'solidarity mission', covering Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Libya and Venezuela starting the second week of November, while Gabon and Nigeria would be visited in early December 1987. [passage omitted]

Chad

President Praises Egypt's 'Civilized Stand'

NC112227 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Chadian President Hisssein Habre has praised Egypt's stand on the Chad-Libya conflict, describing it as a civilized stand that follows the rules and principles of justice and international relations. President Habre added: We think very highly of Egypt's position.

In an interview that will appear in the newspaper *Al-Akhbar* tomorrow, Monday, the Chadian president described Egyptian-Chadian relations as excellent, particularly their economic, technical, and cultural ties. He noted: Our main concern now is to promote these relations so that they will become more active and assume greater proportions.

In his interview, the Chadian president spoke on both new and old French-Libyan military relations, pointing to the existence of a French lobby that is ambiguously linked with the Libyan regime. President Habre further revealed that Syrian pilots, aircraft, and armored vehicles participated in the fighting against Chad since the outbreak of the Aozou battles on 8 August.

The Chadian president pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi held a meeting at the end of August to reorganize the Chadian opposition and prepare for a new onslaught.

In his interview with *Al-Akhbar*, he warned against the danger inherent in Sudanese support for Libya and in Libya's military presence in Sudan, stating that he would not hesitate to strike violently at any forces trying to enter Chad through Sudan. He pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi has sent thousands of mercenaries as well as large numbers of his regulars to the Darfur region in western Sudan. President Habre added that the Libyan forces had used the Sudanese town of Tinah to attack Chad dozens of times in less than a year.

The Chadian president called on Arab countries that had sympathized with Libya to correct their policy so that Arab-African or Islamic solidarity would not be undermined. He additionally stated that the Lebanese and Palestinians must point their guns at the Zionists instead of fighting the Chadians.

In alluding to the Chadian forces' recent victories over Libyan troops in the Aozou sector, President Habre said that the Chadian fighting man was the most important factor in scoring these victories and that the Libyan soldier's belief in the war's futility was a significant factor in his defeat.

Egypt's Butrus Ghali Cited on Cairo's Support

AB141042 Ndjamenan Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Last Monday [12 October], Egypt—a friendly country—reiterated its firm support for our government's policies. In an interview with the Ivorian daily *Fraternite Matin*, Butrus

Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, stated that his country backs the Chadian Government and condemns Libya's intervention in Chad, an intervention he believes is harmful to the subregion. He strongly denounced the partisan position asserted by Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, who stated some time ago that the Aozou administrative post was part of Libya. [passage omitted]

Red Cross Accusation on POW's Viewed

AB142252 Ndjamenan Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] A few days ago, AFP reported that the International Red Cross was not happy with the treatment of prisoners of war in Chad and Libya. The International Red Cross accused the Chadian Government of preventing the organization from visiting Libyan prisoners, prisoners we consider to be brothers who are victims of the Al-Qadhdhafi dictatorial regime's expansionist and annexionist policy.

But why is the International Red Cross dead-set against Chad? The International Red Cross has always carried out its activities freely in Chad. It has always received help and has been granted all necessary facilities by Chadian authorities at all levels. As such, the International Red Cross has regularly visited prisoners of war in Ndjamenan, Abeche, and Biltine. On these occasions, it was able to give humanitarian assistance, assistance for which we are grateful.

It has, however, been observed that the International Red Cross has not at any time been able to obtain from Libya the slightest help nor the possibility of receiving information on the true situation of Chadian POW's in Libya. Worse still, it never made any serious and constant approach to the Libyan authorities to carry out its mission. One would have expected the International Red Cross to at least have denounced the Libyan attitude, which is in violation of all international conventions on the protection of and assistance to war prisoners.

However, in the past few days, the International Red Cross has become more and more agitated, and one wonders why. In fact, we have received reports, reports we follow closely with much interest and amusement, that dubious and suspicious dealings are currently under way in a West African country between representatives of the International Red Cross and Libyan Secret Service officers. What is the purpose, we ask.

But the fact remains that the International Red Cross is not capable of fully carrying out its mission, as we have deplored. It may, however, be capable of giving a satisfactory reply to this question. This is why the Chadian authorities should thoroughly reexamine our relations with the International Red Cross. This is required in the supreme interest of security.

Egypt

USSR's Vorontsov, Delegation Arrive for Talks

Official Talks Begin

NC141424 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and the Soviet Union began this afternoon. The Egyptian delegation was led by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Soviet delegation by Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The Egyptian delegation included: Ambassador Ahmad Hatatah, assistant foreign minister; Salah Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Moscow; 'Amr Musa, head of the Organizations Department; Mahmud Fathi, head of the East Africa Department; and Muhab Muqbil, director of the Foreign Minister's Office.

The Soviet delegation included: Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry; Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador to Cairo; and the four-member delegation accompanying the Soviet guest.

Vorontsov Praises Talks

NC141450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Yuliy Vorontsov, head of the Soviet delegation, described the 90-minute talks as extremely good. He disclosed that they dealt with a number of issues that focused on the Middle East and the international conference. He added: The two countries' views in this respect are identical and we will work together within this framework.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the Soviet delegation and said that the talks are an opportunity to exchange views on the international conference for peace in the Middle East and the situation in the Gulf. He noted that the two sides will continue to hold consultations during Soviet delegation's 2-day visit.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that the Soviet delegation will leave Cairo for Jordan on Friday. It will then visit Damascus before returning to Moscow to attend the meeting there between the foreign ministers of the United States and the Soviet Union. He expressed his belief that the Middle East issue will be on the agenda of that meeting.

Concluding his statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that President Husni Mubarak will receive the Soviet delegation tomorrow, Thursday.

Dr Usamah al-Baz hosted a luncheon banquet at noon today in honor of the Soviet delegation. It was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Al-Baz Meets With Vorontsov

NC141936 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met this evening with Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister. Vorontsov arrived in Cairo earlier today, leading a delegation that includes four Soviet Foreign Ministry officials.

The conferees discussed current developments in the Middle East and issues related to the convocation of an international peace conference.

It is known that the Soviet first deputy foreign minister is making this visit as part of a tour which will also include Jordan and Syria. The purpose of the tour is to learn the viewpoints of these countries with regard to Middle East developments and the question of an international conference prior to the meeting to be held in Moscow between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state. It is expected that during this meeting, issues pertaining to the international conference and events in the Middle East will be discussed.

Al-Baz on Meeting, Issues

NC142151 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] During their meeting today, the Egyptian and Soviet delegations discussed the recent developments in the Middle East situation, issues related to the convocation of the international conference, the Gulf war, and the Afghan problem. This came in a statement made by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, following the session of talks he held with the Soviet delegation currently visiting Cairo, and headed by the first deputy foreign minister.

Dr al-Baz added that the talks also dealt with developments in the disarmament field. He disclosed that during these talks the Egyptian delegation stressed the importance of holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO.

Dr Usamah al-Baz pointed out that the Soviet first deputy foreign minister explained his country's stand on all these issues. The Soviet official also expressed his country's support for the convocation of an international conference. Al-Baz noted that in connection with the Gulf war, the Soviet official stressed the importance of

marshalling all efforts to end the conflagration by implementing Security Council Resolution 598. According to Al-Baz, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister also reviewed the efforts being made in the international arena in this context.

Ghali Confers With Soviets

NC151202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT
15 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with the Soviet delegation visiting Cairo. The delegation is led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov.

Discussion centered on the situation in the Middle East and issues pertaining to the international peace conference. It also dealt with Egypt's African policy and its interest in Africa's political and economic issues.

The Soviet delegation is expected to leave Cairo tomorrow. It will also visit Jordan and Syria as part of a tour designed to get firsthand knowledge of the situation in the Middle East prior to the meeting to be held in Moscow between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state. The situation in the Middle East and the international peace conference will be among the topics discussed during the meeting.

It should be recalled that Dr Ghali is chairman of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society, which includes a number of Egyptian and Soviet personalities.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

Welcomed by 'Abd al-Majid

NC142047 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Cairo today for a 3-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Moroccan minister will meet with President Husni Mubarak and deliver a message to him from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

Upon his arrival, the Moroccan foreign minister disclosed that he is carrying a message from Moroccan King Hassan II to President Husni Mubarak.

Answering a question on political developments in the Arab Maghreb, he said: We are following events in the Arab Maghreb and we optimistically look forward to resolving the differences in that region.

Replying to another question on the Arab League's role with respect to the Western Sahara crisis, Abdellatif Filali maintained that this issue does not fall within the Arab League's jurisdiction as it is an African problem, which was discussed by the OAU. He noted that everyone in the OAU studied the developments on this issue

prior to Morocco's withdrawal from that organization. In connection with this issue, the Moroccan minister stated: We are now following with interest the UN secretary general's initiative on this question. This initiative seeks to attain a peaceful solution and to organize a referendum on self-determination in that area.

Regarding the situation in the Arab world, and as to whether the current Arab climate is conducive for convening an international peace conference, Abdellatif Filali said: We are looking forward to and are optimistic about the upcoming Arab summit, particularly as this will be the first one since the Fes summit in 1982. He added: We hope that that meeting will have an outcome beneficial to the Arab world.

With respect to the issue of the international conference, the Moroccan minister stressed that his country supports the convocation of such a conference for the purpose of discussing peace in the Middle East. He added that Morocco believes that it should be attended by all parties concerned.

Abdellatif Filali was welcomed upon his arrival by Foreign Minister Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid. He noted that he had met with his Moroccan counterpart at the United Nations last month. Dr 'Abd al-Majid pointed out that discussion at that time had focused on issues of mutual interest and Arab developments.

'Abd al-Majid added: We take pride in the Moroccan foreign minister's visit to Egypt and welcome him in his second home. He disclosed that the Moroccan guest will meet with President Husni Mubarak tomorrow.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC151129 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and envoy of Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II, in the presidential palace in Heliopolis at noon today. Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and (Muhammad al-Tazi), head of the Moroccan Interests Section in Cairo, also attended the meeting.

Sidqi Assigned More Ministerial Portfolios

NC131519 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree appointing Dr 'Atif Sidqi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister for Al-Azhar affairs.

President Husni Mubarak has also issued a decree appointing, Dr Sidqi deputy military governor general. His excellency will be empowered with all the authorities of the president of the Republic as specified in Law 162 of 1958 pertaining to a state of emergency.

President Husni Mubarak has also issued a presidential decree appointing Dr Sidqi minister for local government.

President Mubarak Appoints New Governors
NC142210 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
2100 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree appointing the following as governors:

Sa'd Muhammad al-Sharbini, governor of Al-Daqahliyah;

Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo;

'Abd al-Mun'im 'Amarah, governor of Ismailia;

'Umar 'Abd al-Akhir, governor of Al-Jizah;

Yusuf 'Afifi Muhammad, governor of the Red Sea Governorate;

Muhammad Yusri al-Shami, governor of Masra Matruh;

'Abd al-Halim al-Sa'idi, governor of Qina;

Fikri 'Abd al-Hamid, governor of Al-Gharbiyah;

'Ali Ibrahim 'Ali, governor of Sawhaj;

Munir Shash, governor of North Sinai;

Nabil Halawah, governor of Kafr al-Shaykh;

Faruq al-Talawi, governor of the New Valley;

Qadri 'Uthman, governor of Aswan;

Dr Ahmad al-Juwayli, governor of Damietta;

Sayyid al-Jawsaqi, governor of Alexandria;

Nur al-Din 'Afifi, governor of South Sinai;

Sami Khudayr, governor of Port Said;

Tahsin Shanan, governor of Suez;

Dr Yahya Muhammad Hasan, governor of Al-Minufiyah;

'Abd al-Tawwab Rashwan, governor of Al-Minya;

Dr 'Abd al-Rahim Shahatah, governor of Al-Fayyum;

Dr Muhammad 'Adil Ilhami, governor of Al-Buhayrah;

Muhammad Husayn Madyan, governor of Bani Suwayf;

Dr Mahmud Sayyid Sharif, governor of Al-Sharqiyah;

Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Musa, governor of Asyut; and

Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Sayyid Ahmad, governor of Al-Qalyubiyah.

The governors will be sworn in before President Mubarak tomorrow morning, after which the president will convene a meeting with them. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, who will attend the meeting, has stated that the appointment of new governors is designed to infuse new blood into the local government apparatus to give impetus to performance, to realize the principle of regional development in view of the regional dimension's importance in the economic development plan, and to find solutions to the problems facing the public. He said that these are the factors which President Mubarak is stressing.

Libya

JANA Editor on Interview of Egypt's Ghali
LD141656 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Abidjan, 14 October (JANA)—Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, in a press interview has attacked Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League general secretary, due to the latter's assertion that the Aozou oasis lies in Libyan Arab territory. Ghali described Klibi's statement as ignorant and worthless.

Butrus Ghali also defamed, in the same press interview with Abidjan's *Fraternite Matin*, the Lebanese honorables who came to the Great Jamahiriya to fight for Arabism and Islam, and instead depicted them as mercenaries. JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on such a statement and said:

Butrus Ghali's statement comes from the spokesman of a regime that has been expelled from the Arab League. His attack against the Arab nation and its League's secretary general is thus not surprising. However, if there is no truth in Brother Chedli Klibi's statement—being as he is secretary general of the Arab League and thus, due to his post, aware of all the charters and the background of the Arab nation's causes—how then can there be any truth in any statement made by this Butrus, whose forefathers were traitors and who has inherited treason down from father to son?

Butrus Ghali, who has specialized, in lieu of his president, in spreading anti-Arab and anti-Islamic reports and claims, has deservedly proven that he is a dog tied by a leash around his neck to the Black House, as is also his government, which in the end will inevitably suffer adversity. Egypt and the Arab nation will then be rid of his evil and his foul smell forever.

UN Envoy Renews Demand for Fleet Withdrawal
LD142246 Tripoli JANA in English 1824 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] New York, October 14, *Jamahiriya News Agency*—Dr. 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, Great Jamahiriya's envoy to the UN, reaffirmed the need to withdraw all the colonialist fleets from the Mediterranean Sea basin due to the dangers they pose to the nations in the region.

In a lecture he delivered at the world synod here yesterday evening, he added that the U.S. Administration still pursues the policy of organized state terrorism in a colonialist attempt to pressure Great Jamahiriyyah within the framework of its role of anti-Arab nation and its central issue—Palestine.

Armed Forces Head Receives PFLP's Habash
LD141332 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, has received Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; and Taysir Quba'h, member of the PFLP Political Bureau.

Mauritania

2 Former Ministers Reportedly Arrested 11 Oct
AB111840 Paris AFP in French 1616 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Oct (AFP)—According to reliable sources in Nouakchott, three former Mauritanian officials were arrested today, namely, Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal and Sidi Ould Sheykh Abdellahi, both former ministers, and Dieng Boubou Farba, former governor of the Central Bank of Mauritania. These sources indicate that the arrests are in connection with the "Hameida affair," from the name of the Mauritanian businessman who operates in the fishing sector with a fleet of some 30 trawlers.

This businessman, Hameida Ould Bouchraya, had irregularly received huge bank loans of an undisclosed amount, without any guarantees or mortgage, with the consent or backing of the three arrested officials. Hameida Ould Bouchraya is reportedly far behind in the payment of his debts.

Ould Lekhal, former minister of economics and finance, and Ould Sheykh Abdellahi, former minister of fisheries and maritime economy, were relieved of their duties and removed from the Mauritanian Government in a Cabinet reshuffle carried out by President Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya on 21 September 1987. Dieng Boubou Farba, the governor of the Central Bank of Mauritania, was also relieved of his duties on that occasion. The CMSN did not give any reasons for these dismissals.

Colonel Taya Welcomes PLO's Yasir 'Arafat
AB141446 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
0730 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Yesterday evening Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN, welcomed Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the PLO. [passage omitted]

Answering questions by newsmen, the PLO leader first of all expressed his pleasure at being in Mauritania, which he sees as his second home. He went on to say that

he will talk with his brother and friend, Col Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, on issues concerning the Arab world, in particular the forthcoming summit of the Arab League expected to take place in Amman, Jordan. In this connection, Yasir 'Arafat said he was very confident about the outcome of the summit.

Sudan

Armed Forces Statement on Relief Convoy Ambush
EA150848 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Statement issued by the General Command of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces on 14 October; place not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is a statement from the General Command of the People's Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

The Armed Forces are doing their utmost to defend the homeland, its unity, and the security and well-being of its people. They have never been deterred or discouraged by any agent. They offer their sweat and blood, and suffer martyr after martyr so the people may enjoy security, stability, and an honorable livelihood. At the same time, we see that there are agents who take no notice of this.

A relief convoy bound for Uwayl was exposed to a treacherous ambush this morning near the (Arbat) railroad station in Bahr al Ghazal. The fugitive colonel [SPLA leader Colonel John Garang] massed all his forces and agents in the area until the number of outlaws reached 4,000. Our Armed Forces, which were escorting the convoy, confronted and dispersed them, and inflicted great material losses. We suffered 15 martyrs and 7 injured. Nineteen railroad workers were martyred in the same ambush.

It is not surprising that the agent forces attacked the relief convoy. What is truly strange is that they did so without shame or embarrassment while bragging of their desire for peace. We pray for the souls of the martyrs. We assure them that their blood was not shed in vain. They are the predecessors and we are the followers. We pledge to preserve Sudan, its soil, and its unity. Food will be provided to women, children, and the elderly throughout Sudan. We will spare neither sweat nor blood. While awaiting martyrdom, we will work to achieve these objectives. We will not be frustrated by outlaws nor repelled by renegades and stooges.

Paradise and immortality for our righteous martyrs! Shame and disgrace for the stooge Garang and his mercenaries who brag about peace, but stop the daily bread from reaching the mouths of children and old people!

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Visits Japan

For Tokyo KYODO and Khartoum SUNA accounts of the visit to Japan by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, including his talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, and the signing of financial aid agreements, see the Japan section of the 13 October East Asia *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Tunisia

Bourguiba Orders Reopening of Tripoli Consulate *LD141303 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic* 1200 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Tunisia's diplomacy and its relations with a number of fraternal and friendly countries were a subject of attention at a working meeting between his excellency the supreme combatant and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Amor Chedli, and Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk. His excellency the president appointed a number of consuls general.

The supreme combatant authorized the reopening of the Tunisian Consulate in Tripoli as a way of crowning the talks between Tunisia and Libya, during which the two sides expressed their desire to develop their relations on

a strong and clear foundation. With this step, the appropriate authorities in Tunisia can continue to clear the atmosphere between the two countries and, in particular, look after the interests of our people who reside or work in fraternal Libya.

In this respect, the supreme combatant decided to appoint Mr (Mohamed Salah El Ouni) as consul general of the Republic of Tunisia in Tripoli. He also appointed Mr (Abderrazak Mansour) as consul general of the Tunisian Republic in Jeddah and (Slaheddine Jarmali) as consul general in Paris.

Prime Minister Receives Libya's Al-Ubaydi *LD101012 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic* 2300 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Today, at the government palace in Kasba, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, prime minister and minister of interior, received 'Abd al-Ati al-Ubaydi, permanent representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah to the Arab League. He congratulated the prime minister on his appointment by the supreme combatant to his new post.

At the meeting cooperation and relations between the two fraternal countries were reviewed.

Soviet Ambassador Delivers Message to Ben Ali *LD092243 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic* 1600 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received Mr Vladimir Fedorovich Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador to Tunis, who handed him a message of greeting from the Soviet Cabinet. The meeting also dealt with ways to consolidate bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

GCC Interior Ministers Meetings End 14 Oct

Cooperation Discussed

JN141041 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Their excellencies and highnesses the GCC interior ministers held their final session at the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental Hotel today. Hammuda bin 'Ali, UAE minister of state for internal affairs, chaired the session. The GCC interior ministers held a closed session this morning confined to the ministers and preparatory to holding the final session. At the end of their meetings, the GCC interior ministers decided to promote cooperation, intensify contacts, and achieve security cohesion among the GCC states to safeguard security and stability, especially since the GCC interior ministries give top priority to security requirements, particularly under the current circumstances.

The final statement, which was issued following these meetings, pointed out that the ministers have discussed the regional security situation, the escalation of tension, and threats to GCC member states' security and stability. The ministers made this decision by implementing the GCC's principles and in accordance with resolutions adopted by previous meetings. After hearing a report from Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi minister of interior, and a similar report by Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, Kuwait's minister of interior, the ministers stressed their support for the measures taken by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to safeguard their security and stability. The ministers also denounced criminal acts, particularly against God's holy mosque, some Iranian pilgrims' encroachment on the holy places, and acts of sabotage to undermine security and stability. [passage omitted]

Summit Set for 26 Dec

LD141215 Kuwait KUNA in English 0916 GMT
14 Oct 87

[By Salah Tayel]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 14 (KUNA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council summit conference will be held next December 26 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, KUNA learnt here today from GCC Secretary General Abdallah Bishara. Bishara headed the GCC Secretariat's delegation to the meetings of the GCC interior ministers, who concluded their deliberations here today. KUNA also learnt that preparations for the summit has started and the Secretariat General began consultations with the six member countries on the summit's agenda. The GCC groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi on Agreement With YAR

LD142146 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1446 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 14 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the [Saudi] minister of interior, has pointed out that the GCC interior ministers have been briefed on the regrettable events carried out by the Iranian regime in holy Mecca during this year's pilgrimage as well as on these events' repercussions. During a meeting with Saudi journalists following the conclusion of the GCC interior ministers' meetings, his highness stressed that he had found total support and agreement on all matters.

His Highness Prince Nayif, in reply to a question on whether any measures were taken at the GCC interior ministers sixth meeting concerning the act of sabotage committed in holy Mecca by the Tehran regime, stated that there was no need to take any measures; that the stands of the GCC member countries on those regrettable events are known. His highness the interior minister added that the final communique of the GCC interior ministers sixth meeting did not deal with any security strategy because one was already adopted and agreed upon by the ministers during their meeting at the beginning of this year. His highness asserted that the security strategy will be on the agenda of the forthcoming GCC summit due to be held, God willing, in Riyadh.

As for reports asserting the existence of a project for a joint security agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the YAR, His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that such reports are true and that Saudi Arabia does have a project with Yemen. However, he said, I would like to add one thing: We were the first to propose a security agreement between the Kingdom and Yemen, which is something that the brothers in the YAR see as serving common security. His highness added: We are ready for any agreement to be signed between us and the YAR, whether it concerns the existing security agreement between the GCC member countries or any topic of their choice. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Panamanian Tanker Hit by Missile Off Coast

LD150737 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0705 GMT
15 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait 15 Oct (KUNA)—The Ministry of Defense has announced that an Iranian missile struck a Liberian oil tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters this morning, causing a fire on board but no loss of life. A responsible source at the Ministry told KUNA that the competent authorities have taken measures to contain damage to the vessel. The source said that while Kuwait holds Iran responsible for the aggression against the vessel, it urges the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to speed up implementation of Resolution No 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and for security to prevail in the Arab Gulf region.

Oil sources have told KUNA that the tanker, the *Sungari*, was struck at 0500 today, that is 0200 GMT. A fire broke out at the front of the tanker but was brought under control after firefighting units from Al-Sha'aybah harbor and the Kuwait Oil Company helped extinguish it. These sources also said that the 290,000-tonne ship was half full of oil when it came under attack on its way from the Gulf to complete its load with Kuwaiti oil.

Refinery Shutdown Denied

LD150902 Kuwait KUNA in English 0846 GMT
15 Oct 87

[By Shamil Khayri]

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 15 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti official oil sources Thursday denied that oil refinery of Al-Ahmadi port was closed due to the Iranian missile attack on a Liberian tanker in the Kuwaiti territorial waters earlier today. The sources told KUNA that the Al-Ahmadi port refinery operates in full capacity and did not stop its operation following the attack on the Liberian *Sungari* tanker. *Reuter* has reported, quoting shipping sources, that the Al-Ahmadi port refinery was immediately shut down after the attack on the Liberian tanker. The sources affirmed that these reports are baseless.

Tanker Leaks Little Oil

LD151158 Kuwait KUNA in English 1058 GMT
15 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 15 (KUNA)—The quantities of oil leaked from the Liberian oil tanker hit by an Iranian missile in the Kuwaiti territorial waters earlier today were very little, the Environment Protection Council announced Thursday. A press release by the Council said that following the announcement made by the Defense Ministry on the missile attack and the contacts made by the concerned authorities the national plan for combating marine pollution was put on a state of readiness.

The release also said that anti-pollution equipment were prepared for operation and instructions were given, after the fire broke out on vessel was contained, for the naval units which belong to the national plan to move so as to survey the area surrounding the tanker. [sentence as received] Following that, it has been found out that only minimal quantities of oil have leaked and it vanish gradually without posing any danger on the environment.

Messages on Attack Sent Out

LD151052 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that the competent authorities had followed up the dimensions and consequences of Iran's aggression against Kuwait at dawn today in the form of its firing a missile against Kuwait. This missile hit a Liberian oil

tanker sailing in Kuwaiti territorial waters. His Excellency Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent urgent messages to Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League; 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, GCC secretary general; Syed Sariffuddin Pirzada, secretary general of the ICO; and Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. These messages informed these persons of this fresh Iranian aggression against Kuwait and against navigation in the Arab Gulf.

Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah stressed the need for the international community, represented by its various organizations, to assume responsibility for deterring such aggressions. The source added that his excellency had pointed out that this aggression came as a continuation of the aggressions perpetrated by Iran against Kuwait, despite international efforts to persuade Iran to stop this war and not seek to widen it. [passage omitted]

Tanker Reflagging Deal With PRC Said Near

JN141628 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
13 Oct 87 p 1

[By Yusuf Salamah]

[Text] Well-informed sources have told *Al-Siyasah* that an agreement with the PRC is about to be reached to register a number of Kuwaiti tankers with the PRC. These sources added that the agreement will be declared within a few days following intensive talks between the two sides to ensure safe passage of Kuwaiti oil through the Gulf using tankers flying the PRC flag. This is something that might require a PRC naval military presence in the Gulf in one form or another.

In their statements to *Al-Siyasah*, the same sources said that with this agreement, Kuwait will have reached agreement with the United States, the USSR, Britain, and the PRC for hiring or reflagging a number of oil tankers. The French position on this issue is somewhat complicated since the French have different views in this regard, differences caused mainly by technical difficulties.

AL-ANBA' Views USSR Envoy's Remarks

JN141546 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 13 Oct 87 p 7

[Excerpts] Ernest Zverev, the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, has warned that the state of affairs in the Gulf region is very tense and that one match is sufficient to start a major fire. Speaking to reporters while seeing off Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, Kuwait's oil minister, who left for Moscow yesterday, the Soviet ambassador said that the USSR's concern over peace in the Gulf region stems from its relative proximity to the USSR's international borders. That is why Moscow has called and continues to call for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war and a peaceful settlement of the conflict by implementing all provisions of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. [passage omitted]

As for whether Moscow will welcome several OPEC oil officials during the next stage for coordination purposes, the Soviet ambassador said that the presence of several OPEC officials in Moscow now and the visits of others to Moscow at a later time is pure coincidence. He added: My information does not indicate any intention to hold talks or meetings on oil affairs with the OPEC ministers who will be visiting Moscow. [passage omitted] On international cooperation in the Gulf and the propaganda clamor being raised on the issue of protecting navigation, the USSR ambassador said: The only thing that worries Moscow is the U.S. military presence, which greatly exceeds what is needed to escort tankers in the Gulf. As is known, there are more than 40 U.S. warships and others belonging to other nations. Only 12 warships are needed to escort tankers and protect navigation. [passage omitted]

On the increasing interest of the large powers in the oil and non-oil situation in the Gulf region, the USSR ambassador said: Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah's visit to Moscow will not concern only oil affairs. He will also discuss other economic cooperation issues, especially since he has been visiting the USSR over the years and is interested in promoting economic and trade relations between the USSR and Kuwait, including oil issues. That is why the Kuwaiti minister's visit to Moscow goes beyond the framework of oil cooperation. The Soviet ambassador stated: With respect to the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of energy, we possess no detailed information about its purpose since local newspapers did not report much on it. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister, Delegation Depart for Moscow
*LD121338 Kuwait KUNA in English 1222 GMT
12 Oct 87*

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 12 (KUNA)—Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa Monday left here for Moscow on an official four-day visit aimed at increasing the bilateral cooperation at all levels. In a departure statement, Shaykh 'Ali said in accordance with the agreement of the two countries' leaders to develop such relations, "officials of the economic field of Kuwait and the Soviet Union should periodically exchange visits to develop the two countries interest." Shaykh 'Ali did not rule out the possibility of signing joint investment protocols saying "naturally we don't talk about any thing before agreeing on it." Such protocols should serve the aim that governments of the two countries are seeking, "which is enhancing friendship and cooperation relations," the minister added.

Heading a ranking economic and investment delegation, the minister visits the Soviet Union in response to an invitation from Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev who visited Kuwait in the summer of 1986. Shaykh 'Ali is accompanied by Director General of Kuwait Public

Authority for Investment Fahd al-Rashid and the Director General of the Kuwait Company of Investment and Contracting 'Ali al-Gabandi.

The Soviet-Kuwaiti economic talks are scheduled to begin Tuesday at the premises of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. Shaykh 'Ali is also scheduled to meet tomorrow with the Soviet Minister of Petroleum Industry Vasily Dinkov and Minister of Foreign Trade Boris Aristov. The Kuwaiti minister paid an official visit to the Soviet Union in February 1986 during which he signed an economic cooperation protocol and held talks with ranking Soviet officials. The protocol calls for the construction of oil projects and establishment of others in both Kuwait and the Soviet Union, cooperation of the two countries in the field of oil trade and exchange views on the world's oil market.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. Official Herrington Continues Visit

Received by Foreign Minister

LD141435 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, this morning received in his office in Riyadh His Excellency John Herrington, the U.S. secretary of energy, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Muhammad Ma'mun Kurdi, head of the Economic and Cultural Section; Ambassador Nizar 'Abid Madani, head of the Ministry's Western Department; and Hume Horan, the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom. During this meeting, the two sides examined various aspects of the friendly relations existing between their two countries and also various other topics of common interest.

Meets With Industry Minister

LD142047 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1346 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Oct (SPA)—'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abdallah al-Zamil, the minister of industry and electricity, met this afternoon in his office at the Ministry with John Herrington, the U.S. secretary of energy. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by Mubarak al-Khadra, under secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Electricity; Ibrahim ibn Salamah, deputy chairman of SABIC [Saudi Basic Industries Corporation] and appointed member of this body; and Fuhayd al-Sharif, deputy governor of the general authority for electricity.

The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by David Waller, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary for energy for international affairs and energy emergencies; Sean Randolph, deputy assistant secretary for energy for international affairs; and Edward Badolato, deputy assistant secretary for energy.

In a statement to SPA following the meeting, the minister of industry and electricity said that emphasis was placed on discussions of petrochemical projects and the question of exporting petrochemicals to the United States. Minister al-Zamil added that they also discussed aspects of cooperation in the field of electricity, particularly the extension of technical services for electricity companies in the Kingdom by specialized U.S. companies.

Confers With Finance Minister

LD141440 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1348 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Oct (SPA)—Mr Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, conferred at his office at the ministry this afternoon with John Herrington, the U.S. secretary of energy. The

meeting was attended by a number of Finance Ministry officials as well as the delegation accompanying his excellency the U.S. secretary of energy.

Yemen Arab Republic

Minister Meets With Soviet Official at UN

*JN141808 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 Oct 87*

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, met with Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, in New York yesterday. They discussed bilateral relations and international efforts within the United Nations to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran war on the basis of Security Council Resolution No 598.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on USSR Stand, Gulf War
AU151427 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Paris, Oct 15 (AFP)—The Soviet Union is reluctant to impose sanctions on Iran in order to safeguard its own interests and to take advantage of the situation in the Gulf, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has charged.

Mr. 'Aziz, interviewed by the Paris-based Arabic-language weekly *Al-Watan al-Arabi*, said the Soviet Union was among several countries that had allowed considerations of national interest to interfere with their support for sanctions against Iran, which has been at war with Iraq for seven years.

He denounced "the numerous maneuvers that are underway in the corridors of the United Nations, initiated by Tehran and backed by certain countries having interests in Iran, aimed at justifying the Iranian position."

Mr. 'Aziz noted that prior to the July 20 United Nations Security Council resolution, calling for an immediate cease-fire in the Gulf war, "the Soviet Union was actively urging an end to hostilities and was severely criticizing Iran, accusing it of obstructing peace efforts."

But since the adoption of the measure, which Moscow backed, "the Soviets have abandoned their objectivity, adopting a conciliatory tone toward Iran and focusing their interest on the situation in the Gulf and the U.S. presence there," he said.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly criticized the presence of some 40 U.S. warships in the Gulf region to protect U.S.-registered, Kuwaiti-owned tankers from possible Iranian attack.

Moscow remains Iraq's principal supplier of arms and Mr. 'Aziz said Iraqi-Soviet relations had been sound "in all fields" until the adoption of the cease-fire resolution.

Iraq, which has officially accepted the measure on the condition that its provisions are also implemented by Iran, has demanded the full application of the 10 articles in the resolution "in the order in which they appear in the original text."

"If the Soviet Union were to stress one aspect of the text rather than another or to accord an order of priority contrary to that contained in the resolution, Moscow, by supporting Iran's negative attitude, would be hampering the efforts of the Security Council," Mr. 'Aziz was quoted as saying.

He described relations with the United States as "normal" and said a vote by the U.S. Senate to ban Iranian oil imports reflected an appreciation of the gravity of the situation in the Gulf.

Failure by the administration of President Ronald Reagan to implement the Senate decision, he added, would jeopardize the U.S. position.

'Aziz Sends Letter to UN on Missile Attack
*JN141918 Baghdad INA in English 1645 GMT
14 Oct 87*

[Text] United Nations, Oct. 14, INA—In a letter circulated to members of the U.N. Security Council today, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz described "a further odious crime committed by the criminal rulers in Tehran, who demonstrate a propensity for evil and aggression as well as thirst for blood."

The letter, which was submitted to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday by Iraqi Ambassador in the U.N. Ismat Kittani, described the Tehran regime's criminal missile attack on Baghdad yesterday which hit a school, killing 32 people including 29 children, and injuring 218, including 196 children.

Mr. 'Aziz noted in the letter that accredited diplomats and staff of United Nations agencies in Baghdad have visited the scene of the crime and acquainted themselves with the details.

This attack, which is unable to distinguish between the types of targets at which it is aimed, provides categorical proof that the Tehran rulers are deliberately attacking purely civilian residential centers, the Iraqi official explained.

'Arafat Phones President on Missile Attack
*JN142046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2032 GMT
14 Oct 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening. During the call, 'Arafat announced the Palestinian people's denunciation of the large crime committed by the Iranian regime, which fired a surface-to-surface missile at the Balat al-Shuhada' Elementary School in Baghdad yesterday.

During the call, 'Arafat also stressed the PLO's strong support for Iraq, which is defending the Arab nation. He also expressed confidence that victory will be the lot of Iraq and its proud people.

Reportage on Visit by Arab League's Klibi
Arrives on 'Short Visit'

*JN122002 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT
12 Oct 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a short visit to Iraq. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and several Foreign Ministry officials welcomed him on his arrival.

Received by Saddam Husayn
JN131141 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT
13 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, who is currently visiting Iraq.

Klibi briefed President Saddam Husayn on the activities of the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with following up the Arab League's resolutions on the Iranian aggression against Iraq. He expressed the Arab League's solidarity with Iraq's legitimate defense of its sovereignty and security against Iran. He additionally expressed its concern about resuming contacts with the UN Security Council member states and other international bodies and states to stress the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 for a comprehensive and lasting peace.

President Saddam Husayn expressed appreciation for the seven-member Arab committee's efforts and its effective and serious common pan-Arab action. He also praised Chedli Klibi's pan-Arab efforts and stands.

The two sides discussed preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman on 8 November. This summit will discuss the continued Iranian aggression against Iraq, the Iranian threats to the Arab Gulf states, pan-Arab security, and the necessary measures the Arab states should take to protect pan-Arab security against Iran's aggression and threats following Iran's insistence on evil and aggression and its alliance with the nation's enemies, particularly Zionism, to achieve its aggressive and expansionist objectives against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the president's secretary attended the meeting.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz
JN131440 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT
13 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, here today. The two sides reviewed preparations to convene the Amman Arab summit in November.

Tariq 'Aziz and Klibi also discussed the Iraq-Iran war and the international stand on UN Security Council Resolution No 598 for ending the war.

Assails Iranian 'Crime'
JN131820 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT
13 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, has called for intensifying efforts to deter the Iranian aggression and to safeguard

regional peace and security. In a statement to an INA correspondent before leaving Baghdad tonight, Klibi said the new Iranian crime [missile attack] against the schoolchildren once again exposes the nature of Iran's aggression and its evil objectives. He added that the Iranian aggression violates Islamic values and human principles. This aggression does not take into consideration any ethical meaning.

President Saddam Husayn received Chedli Klibi while Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also met with him.

Gulf War Operations, Air Strikes Continue

Communique No 2,874 Issued
JN141804 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,874 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high morale, our victorious forces continue confronting the remnants of barbarism and aggression with their heroic activities. They inflict new losses daily on the Zionist Khomyniites. The results of their activities from last night and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant helicopter gunships carried out 27 combat missions, inflicting further losses on the aggressors. Our helicopters then returned safely to base, God be praised.
2. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector opened fire on enemy units opposite themselves and managed to achieve the following: killed 15 rogues; destroyed six infantry positions and one post; damaged one bulldozer; and burned and destroyed two vehicles.
3. Ten enemy personnel were killed, four infantry positions were destroyed, one vehicle was destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were detonated in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.
4. One enemy person was killed in II Army Corps central sector. Two ammunition dumps were blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.
5. One antiaircraft machinegun and one infantry position were destroyed and one ammunition dump was detonated in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.
6. Using long-range artillery, the wicked Khomeyniites shelled residential districts in valiant Basra last night. The enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of three civilians and the injury of two others. The criminals also shelled Qal'at Dizah and Sirwan today with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling injured three civilians, including a woman, and damaged a number of houses and civilian properties. Heaven for our martyrs and a speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 October 1987

'Big Naval Target' Hit

JN141848 Baghdad INA in English 1834 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 14, INA—Iraqi Air Force jets raided a big naval target near the ships' waiting zone east of the Iranian oil terminal of Khark Island today, scoring accurate and effective hit. An Iraqi military spokesman [said] the raid was carried out at 18:45 hour (15:45 GMT) and all jets involved returned safely to base.

The strike, he said, was in implementation of Iraq's resolve to cut off the oil [word indistinct] employed by the ruling gang in Iran to carry on its aggression on Iraq.

Sources Confirm Tanker Hit

JN150821 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0803 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Shipping sources in the Gulf have confirmed that a giant Liberian oil tanker was struck by an Iraqi missile. *Reuter* has cited these sources as saying that the tanker is named *Bezatoz* and flies the Liberian flag. Iran uses this tanker to transport oil to the southern Arabian Gulf.

A military spokesman had said that the planes of our heroic Air Force yesterday evening dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target in the ships' holding area east of Khark Island.

Qal'at Dizah Shelled 15 Oct

JN151152 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT
15 Oct 87

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah (Northern Iraq,) Oct 15, INA—The northern Iraqi border township of Qal'at Dizah, affiliated to the Governorate of Al-Sulaymaniyah, today came under criminal Iranian long-range artillery shelling.

INA's correspondent in Al-Sulaymaniyah said the four-hour shelling resulted in the wounding of three civilians includes [as received] a child and the damaging of a number of civilian properties.

Iranian Opposition Launches Attacks 2 Sep

JN101727 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT
10 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 10, INA—Militants of the opposition Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA) attacked positions of the Iranian military regime 166, to the south of the western Iranian town of Qasr-e Shirin on September 2. This was the second attack against this regiment within a week.

Al-Mujahed Radio, organ of the opposition movement of Mojahedin-e Khalq, said in a statement monitored here today that in the wake of the two attacks, the Iranian regime authorities were forced to change the location of the regiment's headquarters.

The radio said the first attack was carried out on September 26 and resulted in the killing and wounding of 67 Iranian troops and the capture of 21 others.

Shamir Interviewed on Peace Conference, USSR
TA140943 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 14 Oct 87 pp 5, 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Menahem Shalev: "The Granite Premier;" conducted "this week," place not given]

[Text] [Shalev] The past year has been marked by a sharp dispute between the Likud and the Labour Party over the international conference, a matter depicted by some as procedure. Are the parties as divided about the substance?

[Shamir] The disagreements are not about procedure, but about substance, in the final analysis. This argument has held up progress toward negotiations between Israel and her neighbours because if it had been clear that there would be no international conference, the only option left would have been direct negotiations. As long as the Arab countries believe that there is such an option, they are not willing to join direct negotiations. Direct negotiations are also not devoid of risks. There will be risks.

The dispute over the international conference is about the substance of peace, the conditions for peace, and there was clear proof of this in recent days. There was a sharp and pointed appearance of British Foreign Minister Howe before Israel's Conservative friends in which he spoke of two matters: First, he spoke against Israel's presence in Judaea and Samaria. The second subject he discussed, which can be viewed as a direct conclusion of the first, was the need to go to an international conference.

The international conference has to be convened so that Israel will vacate the territories. This is the picture. Whoever lobbies today for the international conference, both in the international and the domestic arena, intends for Israel to disconnect itself from the so-called "territories." This is the dispute.

[Shalev] Do you believe that it is Labour's intention to use the international conference to coerce the Likud into accepting its solutions for peace?

[Shamir] Labour's intention is to coerce the people of Israel, through the international conference, to relinquish the territories. They believe, although they won't admit it, that this is the best way to bring Israel to withdraw, under international pressure. They tell me that it's "libel" to insist that Labour wants to withdraw to the '67 lines. These are all stories. There is no other way because the Arabs won't agree to a territorial compromise. But this is not presented plainly in Israel, and the dispute is ostensibly about procedure, about the international conference. But it's not so.

[Shalev] But don't you think that there is a consensus between the two parties concerning the interim solution?

[Shamir] I support the interim solution of the Camp David autonomy, but this cannot be reached at an international conference.

[Shalev] Is there any formula—perhaps a change of name—which could change your mind concerning the international conference?

[Shamir] No, it's not a problem of the name. Not for nought has Israel historically insisted on direct negotiations, because we have always felt that this is the only way to reach the optimal conditions for peace. The question is not whether a peace arrangement is needed, or whether an arrangement will be achieved, but about the conditions for such an arrangement.

[Shalev] You have proposed a "regional conference" in which the U.S. is slated to play a major role. Why is it that you do not rely on U.S. assurances concerning the international conference, but do rely on them in connection with the regional conference?

[Shamir] What is a regional conference? It is negotiations with neighbouring Arab states. If Jordan, for example, does not want to come alone, it can invite Egypt to join. I don't object to that, or to a Palestinian delegation which they can accept. The U.S. will always be in the background. It will assist, it will mediate, even if the negotiations are only with Jordan. It will mediate, help to reduce the differences, but the decision will always remain in our hands.

This is the advantage of cooperation with the U.S., this is the modus operandi of its diplomatic activities. It does not impose solutions. It advises, cajoles, persuades. Its way is not to impose solutions, and that is the source of so many complaints about the U.S., especially about the Reagan administration. Everybody is up in arms—Europe, the Arabs. Why doesn't the U.S. pressure Israel, why doesn't it impose its will on Israel?

That is the advantage of the U.S. over the Soviet Union. We trust the U.S., as far as two diplomatic elements can, even though there are many differences between us. I am convinced that once negotiations get underway, the U.S. will not support our positions. It has its own positions. At Camp David, they also had their own positions. But, more or less, we can get along with the U.S.

[Shalev] And one can't rely on U.S. guarantees concerning the international conference?

[Shamir] What are the guarantees?

[Shalev] For example, that it would abandon the conference if...

[Shamir] Nonsense. It won't abandon the conference because if Israel goes to the conference, it also won't leave unless there will be some kind of international ruckus which is almost impossible from the point of view

of Israel's international standing. To go to an international conference and to bang the door? It's inconceivable, it's absurd. And to go with the knowledge that we might reach that stage? Why should we go? And what are "guarantees"?

For the Soviets, guarantees mean an international army. They say so explicitly. They have a method. In the Gulf, they say an international army. In the Middle East, an international army. That's what we need? This will bring peace? We are rich in experience in these matters. No international army has ever brought us peace.

[Shalev] One of the main points that you wish to raise with Secretary of State Shultz is the matter of Soviet Jewry. Do you think that we are facing a new situation, perhaps a substantial change in the situation of Soviet Jewry?

[Shamir] It's quite possible, and in any case, we should work towards it. We have waited for such a change for years. Here, I would like to point out something basic: It was clear to us—at least to me—for the past year and a half since the nuclear disarmament talks began, that in this negotiation, the Jewish matter will not play a role.

Here, the problem is so immense and comprehensive, touching on the physical fate of humanity, that it is inconceivable that in such a matter, the Soviet Jewry issue can serve as a lever, as a card. On this we agreed with the Americans, who spoke openly on this matter.

But that is not the end of it, there is another matter. The Soviets are also seeking to receive economic advantages as a result of economic cooperation with the West—to receive advanced technologies from the West which are unachievable by them today.

Here, in these talks, there is room to insert the Jewish question and to demand from the Soviets a drastic change in everything connected to the Jews. I assume that in Shultz's talks in Moscow, the matter will be raised and, therefore, I am seeking an identity of positions with Shultz. A drastic change of values should be sought in our view of this matter.

It is not a philanthropic matter, one of helping a few Jews who are suffering. It's not a matter of lists of 20, 30 or 100 refuseniks. We must demand of the Soviet Union that they allow any Jew the right to come on aliya to Israel, and to view it as a problem of Jewish nationality, the problem of repatriation. And it is just as important for the Soviets so that they can explain to the non-Jews why they are allowing the Jews to leave. Just like it is today with the Germans who receive repatriation permits. They are not required to prove that they have relatives in Germany. Only one proof is demanded of them: that they are Germans.

Why should the status of Jews in the Soviet Union be inferior to that? This should be the change, and it can yield considerable achievement. If indeed there is glasnost, and there is a will for change, please, let them prove it. The Jewish people will then indeed be grateful.

[Shalev] You said "if indeed there is glasnost." What is your own opinion?

[Shamir] Of course, there are changes in the Soviet Union, and Sovietologists are divided over whether it is a tactical matter or a substantial change. The answer is not readily available, and only the actual developments will show.

From our point of view, we are seeking two changes, which I formulated at the Foreign Ministry: Changes of attitude toward Jews and the establishment of normal relations with us. In a meeting with Gromyko, I was the one who said that it was "abnormal" that they do not have normal relations with us, and I am glad that Gorbachev has adopted the phrase.

[Shalev] You are depicted as one who is unwilling to recognize changes which are taking place in the Soviet Union.

[Shamir] That is not true. I am opposed to the theory that we have to battle the Soviets. All the years I have said that in our struggle for Soviet Jewry, we must not slide into a posture of fighting the Soviets. We must make a clear differentiation. We are not fighting against the Soviet regime. It is not our business. I have therefore always adamantly opposed the collaboration between some of the pro-aliya activists and the dissidents.

I am not battling against Russia. The contrary is true: I am interested in better relations between Israel and the Soviet Union and her allies. But we should not be made to pay a price which damages our existential interests.

[Shalev] You oppose Soviet involvement in the peace process?

[Shamir] What is the peace process? No. If they accept these things, then in my opinion, they have the right to be closely involved in the situation in the Middle East, certainly as befits a superpower. They have their interests here. We talk not only to the U.S. on the situation here; we also talk to the European community. But this doesn't mean that we have to support an international conference.

In my first meeting with Gromyko, I explained this to him: Accept these two matters, and we will talk to you about the situation here. The opposition to an international conference is not because of your participation in it. I think that the conference is not the way to peace.

[Shalev] Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze reportedly told Foreign Minister Peres that "there will be no peace without the Soviet Union and there will be no peace without the international conference."

[Shamir] This is a very grave statement, which I view as constituting an ultimatum. After all, it is not with the Soviets that we have to make peace. How could he say such a thing? I do not believe that an American would say such a thing, even if he thought so. It is a very negative statement. We are willing to talk to the Soviet Union on peace, anywhere. But to present this as a condition? We can not accept such a statement.

[Shalev] But doesn't the Soviet Union hold a key to peace here, with its influence over Syria and over the Palestinians?

[Shamir] At Camp David the Soviets didn't participate. Wasn't Egypt previously in the Soviet sphere of influence? The Soviets have a tactical position. They oppose any separate peace between Israel and one of the Arab countries. I cannot see what is so bad about a separate peace. They employ the line of the "comprehensive settlement" which is very difficult.

The better way is a gradual solution which is achieved step by step. And practical experience proves it. Because they oppose it; we should accept it? Everybody understands that a comprehensive settlement is much harder to achieve. When they sit together, it is obvious that the most extreme line will prevail—and the others will be hard put to reject it.

[Shalev] How do you react to the news of the cancellation of the funding for the VOA?

[Shamir] This has no connection to bilateral relations with U.S. The U.S. asked for our assistance with its information apparatus and we agreed, after some hesitation. This was not a matter of a show of U.S. friendship toward Israel, but rather Israeli consideration for U.S. interests. And if today the U.S. says that they cannot carry the plan out because of budgetary reasons, it should be viewed as they present it.

[Shalev] It has been said that if the administration takes off certain items from the list of weapons it wishes to sell to Saudi Arabia, Israel will remove its objections.

[Shamir] It's possible that Shultz will raise this matter, but this is an old argument between us. The U.S. has many friends in the area, and there is sometimes a divergence of interests. We have always held that the U.S. should not sell arms—especially sophisticated weapons—to countries which are hostile to us, because it thus increases the dangers of war, of Arab aggression. And nothing has happened to make us change our minds.

It was the same with the AWACS, where we lost. We, for example, do not oppose arms sales to Egypt, even though we are not overjoyed at the prospect. This is our position and we will stick to it.

[Shalev] A member of your party, Moshe 'Amirav, has recently called for talks with the PLO. In your opinion, is the PLO incapable of change? And the Palestinians who support the PLO, are they also incapable of changing?

[Shamir] One should differentiate between the two. The Palestinians, that is, the Arabs of the Land of Israel, is a population with its own interests.

The PLO was established before the Six-Day War with the express aim of destroying Israel. The organization, by its very essence, is not capable of talking about or of deciding on peace with Israel. It is interested in negotiations—of capitulation. It is willing to reach an agreement with us—that we should be destroyed in stages.

It is mainly interested in negotiations with the U.S., and it didn't achieve this because once, the U.S. undertook not to talk to the PLO. We should not make it any easier for them to reach this tactical goal of theirs, which for them is a stage in the annihilation of the state of Israel. They believe in this to this day; they espouse it to this day. And I have yet to see the PLO man who said that he opposes this. Such an organization cannot change its ideology, its character.

[Shalev] Why? Are they totally devoid of pragmatism?

[Shamir] No. There is an ideological framework. They can change their tactics, but not their *raison d'être*. This cannot be changed. They have failed, suffered defeat. They have not succeeded in progressing even one millimeter. They have also failed to disrupt our lives, despite the many possibilities which they had and still have. I don't want to go into this in detail so as not to aid them. We shouldn't help them to recover from their defeat or give them diplomatic achievements which would only serve the same purpose.

We support negotiations with Arab countries and with the Arab population of Israel. The Arab states have their own interests, to survive, to progress. The PLO has one interest only: to destroy us.

[Shalev] But the population in the territories mostly supports the PLO. Do you believe that they are also incapable of change?

[Shamir] No. The population is passive, generally, observing from the fence. Their main wish is to survive, to exist in relative security. Sometimes their sympathies are given to one side or another. And it has yet to be proven that most of the population supports the PLO. How can this be proven, especially when PLO terror prevents personalities in the territories from expressing opposing viewpoints?

We've known this for years, before the existence of the State. The PLO is not a new phenomenon. It is a continuation of the situation in the 20s, the Mufti and so on. They have not revised anything. We think that there is a conflict of interest between the PLO and the Palestinian Arab population and we have no wish to give the PLO the advantage.

[Shalev] There has been talk of changes in Herut, less people seem to be talking of annexing the territories, and more of the demographic problem.

[Shamir] There are no differences of opinion in Herut. People voice different opinions but make no demand for operative steps as a consequence of their opinion. The camp as a whole is united in the principle of the wholeness of the land of Israel—no repartition, no withdrawal. All the rest, well, within the frameworks of Camp David, it is accepted.

[Shalev] Do you foresee a situation in which Judaea and Samaria shall be under Israeli sovereignty?

[Shamir] This is our aim. But we have international obligations, in accordance with Camp David, that these territories will serve as a subject for negotiations. In these negotiations, our position will be sovereignty, but we shall negotiate.

[Shalev] How do you summarize your first year in office at the helm of the national unity government? Where did you leave your mark on the government? What are its achievements?

[Shamir] I view my own main achievement as the navigation of the national unity government through all the storms of the past year. I see its continued existence as a supreme duty, as a symbol of national unity, and I am proud that I have succeeded in this and that the government continues and will continue to serve.

The main achievement of the government itself is in the economic field. The situation stabilized even further, we maintained a balanced budget for the first time in many years. For the first time in 15 years, there was growth of the GNP. But there is still a lot to be done.

In security matters, we maintained a relatively stable situation. We prevented escalation on all the borders.

In the diplomatic field, Israel faces no special problems from the point of view of its international relations; there are no special pressures on us. It's true that there was no progress on the peace process, but there was no regression, either.

[Shalev] When will you decide on your own personal future?

[Shamir] When there will be the need, I will decide.

[Shalev] Do you enjoy what you are doing?

[Shamir] It's not a matter of enjoyment. For so many years I've been fulfilling a duty—which is how I view my present job—a national duty. This has been my life. Enjoyment? There are moments of satisfaction, of gratification, of anxiety, of concern, but the personal side does not matter.

[Shalev] Are you satisfied with the passing year?

[Shamir] Certainly. But not fully. I am never fully satisfied. But yes, I think that it was a beneficial year.

SLA Evacuates Position To Appease UNIFIL
TA141026 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
14 Oct 87 p A6

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rozen]

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers have begun evacuating the position where a Nepalese UNIFIL soldier was shot and killed about a week ago. The position will be taken over by UNIFIL.

Lebanese sources say the position is being evacuated in accordance with a request by the commander of the UNIFIL forces in the region. The IDF and the SLA acceded to it with the intention of trying to lessen the tension between the UN force and the SLA.

According to the report originating in Tyre, SLA personnel have already begun evacuating one position situated at the outskirts of the security strip, and its evacuation of another position will begin soon. SLA Commander General Antoine Lahd has said the SLA will reoccupy them if the inhabitants of the three neighboring villages do not succeed in preventing attacks against IDF and SLA forces.

King Husayn Inaugurates Parliament Session
JN101213 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0821 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Speech by King Husayn inaugurating the 5th ordinary session of the 10th Parliament in Amman on 10 October—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and the Almighty, I inaugurate this ordinary session of your esteemed Parliament. I begin by extending my best greetings to every brother member. I express my utmost confidence in you and my deepest appreciation for your achievements and for your sense of responsibility and concern for the public interest which we and the legislative, executive, and legal authorities are eager to preserve.

In discussing the laws that my government referred to your esteemed Parliament during its ordinary and extraordinary sessions, you were an example in entrenching the principles of consultation between the legislative and executive authorities. You were a symbol of fruitful cooperation and joint efforts through which our dear Jordanian people's renaissance, development, and building achievements were realized in harmony with our principles of rule aimed at entrenching a decent life and economic and social prosperity for the sons of this dear country. This is to provide a stable government, sound plans, deep-rooted consultations, and clear objectives. [applause]

Our one Jordanian family whom you represent is proud of your achievements just as I am. This family also appreciates your constant efforts to establish legislation that has regulated the work of our society and linked individual interests with the public interest. It is both optimistic and reassuring to see that the government worked hard to achieve the objectives and principles on which we concentrated in the letter of designation entrusting responsibility to this government and which we explained in the principal clauses of the speeches from the throne that inaugurated the ordinary sessions during the past 2 years.

This was a source of satisfaction to me and has made me optimistic that officials in this country to whom we give our confidence and who enjoy your confidence are seriously and continuously working at the level of responsibility to please the citizens and toward the country's progress and prosperity.

Honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, entrenching security and stability, reassuring the citizens, and protecting them from internal and external dangers are firm principles of my government. This government will continue to entrench and broaden these principles. Security is a constitutional and humanitarian right of every son of these faithful people

whom we have pledged ourselves to serve. Security and stability are the solid rock on which a prosperous society is established and under which comprehensive development is achieved and which we hope to achieve.

Therefore, my government will spare no effort or time to ensure all possible means of support for our Hashemite Arab Armed Forces [applause], the defenders and shield of the homeland and the bearers of the banner of the great Arab revolution. These forces stand on the longest confrontation line as a solid barrier protecting our gains and thwarting any danger to our Arab nation. My government will continue to provide our brave forces with all means of strength and might, including training and arming with the most up-to-date weapons from various sources.

Efforts will also continue to train and prepare the popular Army so it will be a solid support for the Armed Forces by strengthening national security in defense of our pure land and also by serving as an institution that gathers the generations in the best image of cohesion among the sons of the one homeland.

My government will continue to maintain a cohesive and solid domestic front so the citizen will feel reassured about his honor, life, and property. A secure and free citizen is the one who builds and benefits others. He is the kind of good citizen we want so he will promote our society for the better. My government will exert continuous efforts to this end by providing the different security organs with modern equipment and systems so they can continue their mission to protect the citizen, who is the target of all of our actions, and assert the supremacy of the law in all walks of life.

For this purpose, my government has sought to uphold the principle of the independence of the judicial authority. We will give this authority the necessary immunity so it can perform its mission to set the foundations of justice and spread justice among the citizens. We will continue our efforts to modernize laws in conformity with the social and economic progress attained by the Kingdom.

Out of its desire to simplify litigation procedures and to expedite the handling of citizens' cases, the government has drafted a law on civil court trial procedures. This law is aimed at simplifying these procedures and shortening their time. It has also drafted a law on the Supreme Court of Justice, a law amending the penal code, and a law on the Judicial Institute which is aimed at graduating qualified judges who can assume judicial posts on the bases of competence and honest competition. The government will submit these draft laws to your esteemed Parliament during the current ordinary session.

Honorable members of the Senate and House of Representatives, with God's help, Jordan was able to achieve modern, qualitative steps in many aspects of social services related to the people's livelihood and their right

to a free, honorable life. Today Jordan is at the forefront of countries at a development stage similar to ours. Jordan is preparing to enter a new rank in international classification. As affirmation of this, the government has continued to focus its attention on preparing citizens physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially to enable them to follow up scientific and technological developments, as well as the requirements for comprehensive development.

My government will continue to spread various educational institutions throughout the country. Work is now under way to build 115 schools in various governorates. Studies and designs have been completed to build 165 new schools during the coming years. The law on Jordanian universities has been issued to coordinate basic common issues among universities. The government has established a system for licensing and accrediting community colleges and academies to raise their standards and to enable them to achieve their objectives by preparing intermediate technicians who are highly qualified and also to build bridges between these colleges and Jordanian universities.

My government has begun to reconsider the educational process to develop and formulate a comprehensive and integrated policy that is capable of bringing about a modernization of educational programs and curricula on all levels so that these programs and curricula can match the economic and social variables as well as the current and future needs of the labor market. I have entrusted my brother His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan with the honor of keeping the trust regarding this issue. He has not spared any effort in keeping this trust and following up the activities related to its implementation. We also hope that the objectives of this policy will be achieved in the near future, God willing.

The government also approved many recommendations aimed at ending structural flaws in the labor market, especially those related to vocational training and professional qualifications, as well as those capable of developing information systems and statistical data on the labor market and distributing specialties among community colleges and government and private sector institutes in accordance with the requirements of the development plan.

The government also endorsed recommendations on introducing requalification programs for engineers who graduate from some non-Jordanian universities and on benefiting from available work opportunities abroad and focusing on the educational information programs which seek to rectify the prevailing social concepts toward some types of work, especially manual labor.

The government has not ignored the less lucky stratum of society. It expanded specialized shelter and rehabilitation institutions. This was done to look after citizens of various ages and handicaps and rehabilitate and turn them into active, productive members of society. Now

that the national aid fund has started its work, the number of people benefiting from it increased. Moreover, the rehabilitation and aid programs increased by six times compared with those existing before the fund's establishment.

Our youth are the pillars of the homeland and our future asset. Because of this, the government gave maximum care to youth and future generations so they will interact with aims and aspirations and shoulder their responsibilities with determination and devotion. Following the issuance of the youth welfare law, my government drew up regulations and instructions organizing the affairs of sports unions, clubs, and youth centers. Jordanian participation was active in Arab and international games. Work has started on the Al-Hasan Youth City in Irbid and on sports complexes forming an integrated network of sports installations serving the various governorates.

After your esteemed Parliament had endorsed the preaching and guidance law, the preachers' methods of addressing the masses were regulated by following the style of wisdom and good sermon as well as moderation and centrism. Several mosques were built on the East and West Banks. The necessary funds were allocated to repair the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, rebuild the Dome of the Rock, and complete plans to renovate mosques named after Prophet Muhammad's companions. Work has also started on the first stage of building the Islamic orphanage in Amman.

My government gives special attention to domestic and incoming tourism due to the importance of this sector in supporting the balance of payments and due to the availability of the components of natural, historical, curative, cultural, and recreational tourism in the Kingdom. The higher committee for activating tourism comprises official and private activists and investment institutions concerned in this sector. This committee has started to draw up a comprehensive strategy to radically develop this sector and introduce new investment horizons after the government had initiated a number of incentives to encourage Jordanian and non-Jordanian investors and promote collective tourist trips.

During the next stage, there will be concentration on the distinguished sites which can attract tourists and prolong their stay, such as the northern heights, Jarash, the Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba.

My government has also embarked on organizing medical institutions. Following your esteemed Parliament's endorsement of the medical institution law, the government unified medical services in an institution comprising the government, the Royal Medical Services, and university hospitals. The government also managed to run these in a manner rendering equal medical services to all. This is done to open all the Kingdom's hospitals to the citizens, avoid duplication, spare expenses, and improve performance.

The government has worked on an amendment to the civil health insurance system to provide wider services to those it covers. Thirty-two health centers were opened in various governorates this year and work has begun on building 20 new health centers distributed throughout the Kingdom. The 'Ajlun government hospital began operations to serve the community in the area. The mental hospital in Al-Fuhays also began operation. This is in addition to the opening of new hospitals in Ghawr al-Safi, southern Shuna, and Al-Ruwayshid. Work has also begun on Al-Tafilah Hospital.

Preparations are being made to build a new hospital in Al-Karak, the King 'Abdallah Hospital in Irbid, and the Prince Hamzah Hospital in Amman and to increase the number of health centers in various areas, nursing colleges, and auxiliary medical institutes.

Streamlining local government has been a priority concern for my government which has made decisions placing a heavy financial burden on the Treasury with the aim of bolstering the financial position of municipal and village councils. The government rescheduled their debts, gave them new loans, and assumed numerous responsibilities from them like building schools, thoroughfares, and property acquisitions with the objective of improving the performance of local councils. My government has worked toward devising a special development plan for each local council for the next 3 years to which they are committed.

My government is interested in giving a more effective role to provinces and municipal and village councils in implementing regional projects. Studies are under way to draw up a comprehensive development plan for the desert area in Jordan so optimum use may be made of this important, large part of the homeland and the living standard of its population may be advanced. Furthermore, the Greater Amman Municipality was created at the instruction of your esteemed House in the interest of integration among the municipalities around the capital, averting duplication, and sharing services equitably. Since housing and food constitute fundamental elements in the social and services sector, the government proceeded in implementing limited income housing projects, civil servants housing, and urban development projects throughout the country.

The government has also borne a heavy burden easing terms of ownership for housing units in the Abu Nusayr housing project, thus enabling citizens to buy all the units in that city. My government has finalized a comprehensive housing strategy meeting long-term housing needs. The government has also continued to pursue a supply policy assured of making basic supply needs available at stable prices and has maintained sufficient strategic reserves of these basic articles.

Honorable members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the infrastructures of the national economy are as important as the social services because they are

all closely linked to the decent quality of man's civilized life. They also prepare the firm foundations for the entire structure and represent the integrated network of production infrastructures. In the field of transportation, the government has continued to build the primary and secondary road networks that link production sites with the consumption and export sites stretching from the north to the south of the Kingdom and including the Jordan Valley region.

The government has given the local contractor the priority in implementing construction projects. The government also provided the local contractor with the Jordanian contract law to regulate and promote his profession and with the government public works system according to which government tenders were joined in one section.

The government has bolstered Jordan's strategic trading position following the establishment of the Arab bridge for a maritime shipping company between Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq. A terminal designed for the handling of oil and liquids was established. Work is currently under way to establish a platform and a station for passengers in Aqaba. Moreover, a multipurpose platform will soon be established in the industrial area south of Aqaba. Our airline fleet has been modernized by the addition of new aircraft. Royal Jordanian Airlines is establishing an advanced center for aviation operations and emergencies to facilitate round the clock communication and monitoring of air operations between the centers and the corporation's planes and airports.

My government will continue to complete and operate further modern electronic data exchanges and expand the existing exchanges throughout the Kingdom. The communications management in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have adopted the regional fiber-optical cable project which will also link the northern part of the Kingdom with the southern part. Parts of the southern microwave network are currently being received which will support the national network for automatic communications and relay television and radio programs to these areas for best reception.

My government is also continuing to promote administrative, financial, and technical performance in the public sector institutions which provide citizens with services. The government has almost completed the financial, administrative, and legal studies to turn the public transport corporation, the Royal Jordanian Corporation, and the Communications and Telecommunications Corporation into private sector corporations while enabling the public sector to contribute to them at a later stage. The draft laws on these will be presented to your honorable Parliament.

My government has managed to make significant strides in the fields of energy, electricity, water, and irrigation. The Aqaba thermal power station has become operational and the national oil exploration program has

continued. Three agreements were signed with international companies in this regard whose provisions your honorable Parliament endorsed. Moreover, natural gas has been discovered. We will begin exploiting this in the near future, God willing. We pray to God to make this opening a time of goodness and prosperity for this country.

Alongside this effort, the government has intensified its studies on alternative sources of energy such as shale oil and solar energy. The government has referred to your esteemed Parliament a draft law ratifying the agreement on the exploitation of Yarmuk River after this agreement was signed with sister Syria, God be praised, to build Al-Wahdah [Unity] Dam on the Yarmuk River. The water from this dam will augment the sources of irrigation in the Jordan Valley in particular and generally bolster the Kingdom's water resources as well as generate electricity. The King 'Abadallah Canal project has been completed. This canal will irrigate 60,000 dunums in the Jordan Valley.

The government has also invested funds in several sewer projects and water treatment plants in various towns in the Kingdom, such as the water treatment plant in Khirbat al-Samra' village which is considered the biggest plant of its kind in the region. We are proud to announce today that more than 96 percent of the population in our beloved Kingdom is supplied with water and electricity. This is one of the highest percentages in the world. [applause]

Honorable senators, honorable representatives, the present world economic conditions, which are marked by ambiguity and vicissitudes, have had a clearly negative effect on the economic performance of developing countries. They have also changed the pattern of economic and trade relations among world nations. The Jordanian economy is part of the developing countries' economy and is directly affected by regional events in view of its openness to and link with the surrounding fraternal Arab states. Despite this, still we were able, praise be to God, to maintain our economic development on its natural course, thanks to the security and stability enjoyed by this country, and the success of Jordan's old economic philosophy.

There is much proof to substantiate the soundness of our national economic structure. This includes the strong Jordanian dinar, which confirms the sound policy of maintaining a reserve of foreign currencies; Jordan's credibility in paying foreign debts on time; the drop in the balance of trade deficit; the achievement of a surplus in the balance of payments; the increase in the remittances of our sons working abroad; the complete disappearance of inflation in the markets; and the achievement of positive GNP rates.

My government has continued its earnest and persistent efforts in rectifying situations and coping with international changes as well as creating the most suitable

atmosphere for investment in all production fields. It has linked the activities of the public and private sectors to achieve integration. It also enhanced the private sector's role in the fields of production and construction.

The Consultative Economic Council, which represents key figures of the private sector, has begun its work to stimulate the public sector's role. Several new laws have been implemented such as the Law on the Encouragement of Investment. All these laws are aimed at making Jordan a leading industrial and trade center in the region. Quick steps are being taken to modernize other important laws such as The Companies Law and The Banks Law in line with the progress that has been made in various economic sectors.

The expatriates' third conference was held this year to represent ties between Jordanians working abroad and their homeland and to acquaint them with areas of investment in the Kingdom. At the same time, the government also acquainted the non-Jordanian investors with these areas and launched an investment campaign in the fraternal State of Kuwait. The remarkable activity of the Amman financial market since the beginning of this year is another sign of the soundness of the investment climate in the Kingdom. The government centers its utmost attention on production sectors, agricultural and industrial sectors—because of their direct positive effect on the level of self-sufficiency, exports, alternatives to exports, the transfer of technology, and the exploitation of natural and mineral wealth.

In the agricultural sector, work continues to implement large projects such as the development of the Al-Zarqa' River Basin and the Al-Hamad Basin. These projects are aimed at preserving basic agricultural revenues such as land and water and at increasing vegetable and animal products and pastures and forests. The government also exerts efforts to regulate the agricultural sector through many measures to apply agricultural patterns and work out encouraging prices for the crops to be produced. The feasibility of wheat and corn production and of the promotion of the animal wealth in the southeastern parts of the Kingdom has been proven.

After this became known, and after the private sector began to invest in these projects, the government continued to lease land for token fees. At the same time, it continues to distribute arable lands in desert areas to the residents of the desert who deserve them in order to settle them in these lands and to increase production by exploiting these lands in the best way possible. Agricultural products are being exported to traditional Arab markets and European countries with great success. The government also tried to develop agricultural research and coordinate such research among the competent sides by establishing a national center for agricultural research and the transfer of technology.

In the industrial and mining field, the government continues to direct and encourage investments to establish production projects, to limit the establishment of similar industries, and to center on export industries. The government also has begun to work out the framework of an establishment to assume the task of promoting and guaranteeing Jordanian exports and put stress on the specifications of imported and exported goods. The government has set up a higher committee for chemical industries to exploit the Dead Sea salts and wealth. It also merged companies which are similar and complementary. It also provided various forms of financial support to correct the conditions of principal industrial companies which experienced acute financial crises.

To bolster the Arab economic integration march, the government activated the work of existing joint committees and established new committees with fraternal Arab countries which gave rise to numerous investment companies. These companies were entrusted with the task of establishing industrial and agricultural projects aimed at increasing investment, creating new job opportunities, expanding the market, and achieving self-sufficiency. Moreover, the government signed bilateral trade protocols with Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries aimed at opening new markets for Jordanian products.

Honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, to preserve significant achievements in the social, economic, and services fields and benefit from these achievements, we must rectify and develop several traditional concepts. This is to keep up with the rapidly advancing and renewing requirements of the age of technology and achieve our desired ambitions. While the modernization of the policies of education, health, science, technology, financial supervision, and local government is under way, administrative reforms have also assumed their role.

The Royal Committee for Administrative Development has continued its work in confronting all obstacles and problems hampering the march of development. The committee revised legislations and regulations related to the administrative process. It completed a study on the reality of the organization and aspects of interrelation between civil service organs and issued the civil service law and is currently studying the laws governing state financial management.

We have to realize a basic fact that administrative development is neither confined to nor within the Civil Service Administration. It is a comprehensive process that covers all aspects of society because society is a single body that grows homogeneously and develops in an integral manner.

Honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, we are not satisfied by merely rectifying the existing state of affairs or by adapting to emergencies. We must attempt not to become strangers to the

age. We endeavor to keep up with its new sciences and advanced technologies. Our people are capable of delving in this area and are qualified to assume their role and excel in this regard.

The government established an institution to follow up and develop and deal with technological issues in a coordinated and modern manner through the higher council of science and technology law which your honorable parliament endorsed. Although the technological revolution is a characteristic of this age, the information revolution is another main characteristic of this age. The speed of obtaining and organizing information and its flow from supporting organs, from the act of decision-making to the issuance of statements and figures and constantly updating them, has become an extremely important necessity dictated by the nature of this dynamic age.

The government has established a national system for information capable of organizing communication between information networks and decisionmaking centers in the various state bodies. Work has begun on the first stage of this system which will include all state organs, God willing.

Honorable members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, economic and social planning policy has played a great role in entrenching a comprehensive, balanced development and also in following up the achievement of the objectives sought from the plans and programs. The government continuously follows up the implementation of the third 5-year development plan and its investment programs in all sectors and in various districts. This is done by applying the means and procedures mentioned in the plan on one hand and by introducing new means and procedures when necessary on the other. Moreover, the government urges the private sector to play its effective role in implementing programs of the 5-year development plan.

At the same time, my government continues to implement economic and social development programs in the occupied territories to support the kinfolk's steadfastness and entrench them on their land and national soil. The government has laid down bases to implement this program. The government has also defined the concerned development areas surrounding the centers of governorates and districts in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The government has selected, from our sons there who are working in the public service sector or from those who are working in the private sector, an honorable group in every area. Those groups have been entrusted with the implementation of the program.

Moreover, the government has allocated the necessary funds from the state budget and from the aid it has received for this purpose from fraternal and friendly countries with the aim of contributing to the financing of development projects there. The government has also

begun to finance the first batch of development projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the fields of health, education, and social care.

Moreover, my government extends annual aid to municipalities and village councils in the West Bank and also to public sector employees in the West Bank. The government has decided to extend direct aid to teachers in the government schools who were appointed after 1967. Aid has been extended to 7,000 teachers and employees in the West Bank as well as to 3,000 teachers and employees in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, my government extends direct aid to lawyers, doctors, and engineers in coordination with their professional trade unions to enable them to stand fast on the land and to extend services to the citizens and private institutions there.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives, undoubtedly you realize that the policy of systematic reappraisal and reassessment which my government has pursued in all government departments and sectors in light of all the changes which are dictated by development and its requirements has covered, during the previous sessions of your esteemed Parliament, several fields of maintaining the society's vitality and continued growth. Foremost of these fields were administration, education, the economy, health care, and democratic participation represented by parliamentary life.

Your esteemed Parliament discussed all of these fields at length and in detail for many months. During these discussions your Parliament heard various opinions from experts, intellectuals, the press, and representatives of popular sectors throughout the Kingdom. As a result of these deliberations, studies, and discussions, your esteemed Parliament approved Election Law No 22 of 1986. That law came in harmony with the economic and social changes which took place during the past 2 decades and also with our dear Jordanian people's aspirations to expand the base of democratic participation. It also overcame the occupation's barrier as much as possible.

It has become obvious to the government through actual practice that the period between the approval of the law and its application was short. Therefore, we decided that it is necessary to give the process of registration and preparation for the elections a longer time. Therefore, we have decided in accordance with the powers vested in us under Paragraph 1 of Article 68 of the Constitution to issue our decree to extend the House of Representatives term [applause] for a period of not more than 2 years. During this period, preparations will be made for general parliamentary elections.

While taking this decision, I would like to record my high appreciation of your esteemed Parliament for its thankful accomplishments and profound sense of responsibility toward all the challenges we are facing and also for truly expressing the people's aspirations and

representing their interests. I am certain that during the extension period you will continue your national work at the same level of responsibility and spirit of cooperation with the executive authority.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives, nothing new has occurred during the past time in the list of priorities concerning our government's political action whether on the Arab or international level. No change has occurred in the direct objectives which we are endeavoring to achieve.

With regard to the Palestine question, which is always the focus of our policies and the center of our attention, the government has continued to deal with both the internal and external dimensions of this question with consistency and clarity. After 20 years of occupation, the Palestinian people are still fighting the war for existence on their Palestinian soil in the West Bank and Gaza with a stubbornness and determination that are only matched by the Zionist occupation authorities' stubbornness and determination to displace and uproot this people.

In addition to this we are still monitoring the occupation authorities' practices and policies and the dimensions of these policies, as well as studying all of this. We have been trying within the framework of diplomatic action to expose these practices on all international fronts to curb them and to confront these aggressive policies using all available instruments to uncover them and neutralize their consequences. Hence, the importance of deepening contacts with our people in the occupied land by impressing upon them the need for constant vigilance, cohesion, and support for their various institutions, since they are the vanguards of the battle to remain on the land.

Regarding the international level of the Palestinian question, my government has pursued diplomatic efforts to enlist support and promote the international peace conference. These efforts are still running up against the Israeli barrier represented by the Israeli Government's failure to reach a decision on the conference. The efforts of my government with Arab and international parties have produced increased support for the international conference to the extent that it has become clear to the whole world, including the Israeli people themselves, that the peace efforts may be deadlocked due to the intransigence of the Israeli rightwing in the coalition government.

Twenty years since occupation and after all the efforts on behalf of a comprehensive, just settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, it is now evident that peace in the region has been obstructed by the Israelis who refuse to give occupied Arab land in exchange for peace, in other words, by Israel's insistence upon refusing UN Security Council Resolution No 242. The road to peace has also become known and agreed upon, namely, the convening of an international conference sponsored by the United Nations and attended by all parties concerned plus the

five permanent Security Council members to implement Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and resolve all aspects of the Palestinian question.

Honorable members of the Senate and House of Representatives, out of our faith in a common Arab destiny and in joint Arab action and to honor the principles of Arab order, which is still being subjected to attempts to undermine it either through aggression from across the border or through internal differences and disputes, my government has continued its persistent efforts with various sisterly Arab states in the interest of removing the impurities that keep the eyes from seeing the potential fate of the Arab homeland should the present estrangement, infighting, and regional insularity persist. We hope to make that which we have realized an irrevocable decision in preparation for an ascent and return to a solidarity based on adherence to Arab order and a cooperation underpinned by a common perspective.

We hope to make what we have achieved a decision that sees no retreat as a prelude to rising and returning to what we should have in terms of cohesion based on a commitment to the Arab order and cooperation and solidarity based on a common viewpoint. [applause]

In all its contacts, my government has found sincere response from everyone and an agreement to analyze the reality, dimensions, and serious consequences of the situation. In other words, the viewpoint on the challenges and dangers was identical. The viewpoint on eagerness to preserve the supreme Arab interest and on the sources of concern was also identical. Despite this, we noticed that this common viewpoint was not sufficient to remove the barriers that have been entrenched by estrangement and the accumulation of bitter differences.

We realized that confining action to bilateral contacts was not sufficient to give impetus to the march and that removing the barriers needed a collective effort to be realized through one collective step. Therefore, my government hastily endeavored to probe the opinions of officials in Arab countries regarding the convocation of an Arab summit to be devoted to this end. [applause]

While my government was exerting these efforts, the Gulf war dangers escalated and its threats reached the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The doors became wide open for the intervention of the big powers and the possibilities of entrenching their foothold in the Gulf region. This was followed by the sorrowful incident in which the Iranian pilgrims violated

the word of God Almighty to abide by the principles of pilgrimage where no obscenity, wickedness, or wrangling should take place. These two developments were sufficient to stir the intention and will of all the brothers to adopt a collective step to confront the deteriorating situation.

The Arab League Council resolution to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Amman on 8 November came to express this will. We hope this summit will be the collective step that opens a new era in which the Arab order recovers its health and credibility. [applause] We regard the choice of Amman as the venue for the forthcoming extraordinary summit as a tribute to Jordan and appreciation for its sincere efforts and policy to clear the atmosphere and unify ranks. We are proud of this confidence bestowed upon us by the honorable brothers. We express pleasure in welcoming them in their country and among their kinfolk. We vow to God to do our utmost to make the summit succeed in the fulfillment of our one nation and in the service of its supreme interest.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives, I must reaffirm our stand on the side of fraternal Iraq [applause] in its defense of the Arab land of Iraq and in its sincere call for an end to the war. In this regard, we supported Security Council Resolution 598 as a whole and expressed our viewpoint to the various permanent member states of the Council that the serious implementation of the resolution should be pursued so that the door will not remain open for the Iranian regime's prevarications and maneuvers.

Our political stands have always been clear and frank. They stem from steady pillars and principles. We have not hesitated for a moment to declare them and call for them. They were most clearly evident in our Islamic, Arab stand which unequivocally supports Iraq [applause] and which, at the same time, sees that the present Iranian regime, which has brought trouble and foreign interference to the entire region, does not represent true Iran, the Muslim state and permanent neighbor. We hope for the restoration of normal relations between Iran and its Arab neighbors away from ethnic fanaticism and regional ambitions which benefit no one except the enemies of the Islamic nation.

Finally, I beseech God to guide all of our steps along the road of good, love, cohesion, and construction, to bless our efforts, and grant you success in your new session in the service of your people and nation. He is the best supporter. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Jordanian Envoy Meets Al-Jumayyil, Departs
NC141204 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Minister Marwan Dudin, personal envoy of King Husayn of Jordan, concluded his visit to Lebanon this afternoon and departed for Amman. Prior to his departure, he met with President al-Jumayyil and concluded discussions of topics reviewed yesterday in preparation for the Arab Summit Conference.

The Jordanian envoy today received at the B'abda Palace National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un and the doyen of the press and editors corps.

Soviet Envoy Pledges To Help Resolve Camps War
NC150742 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The meetings which were held yesterday with regard to the situation east of Sidon have once more paved the way for the possible implementation of minister Nabih Birri's initiative. A ranking official in the Unification and Liberation Front has declared that Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Vasilii Kolotusha has pledged to make the necessary contacts for resolving the situation east of Sidon in the event the current efforts to reach an agreement on the implementation of Minister Birri's initiative fail.

According to the Front, the Soviet ambassador affirmed that he has held significant consultations with a number of Palestinian officials in this respect.

Meanwhile, the camps' higher commission comprised of delegations representing the Unification and Liberation Front and Palestinian factions held a meeting at the office of Front's Secretary General 'Asim Qansuh. The commission discussed the mechanism needed for implementing Minister Nabih Birri's initiative and recent proposal. [passage omitted]

Qansuh declared that the Palestinian delegation has requested that the implementation of minister Nabih Birri's proposal be postponed for 5 or 6 days instead of 48 hours and be carried out in stages.

Hizballah Official Says Hostages 'Still Alive'
NC141130 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-ARABI WA
AL-DUWALI 12-18 Oct 87 p 50

[Text] A Hizballah official has said that some hostages whose executions or deaths were announced previously and whose deaths were reported by their countries are still alive and held hostage in [Beirut's] southern suburbs.

Qansuh Announces Cease-fire Southeast of Sidon
NC141415 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] A meeting of representatives of the Unification and Liberation Front and Palestinians, held in the home of 'Asim Qansuh, ended at 1445 today. After the meeting Qansuh made the following statement: As a start, the meeting was successful, given that the parties to the conflict spoke about a political solution and made realistic and positive proposals in this regard. Therefore, the following was decided:

1. To stop propaganda campaigns.
2. To implement a cease-fire as of this hour. All the participants left the meeting to convey this decision.
3. To call on committees which have been formed, including the reconstruction and supply committees, to resume their meetings under the chairmanship of Eng Mustafa Sa'd [secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization].

Qansuh added: The Palestinians presented some proposals on withdrawal, but the problem concerns the redeployment of withdrawing forces. Friday was set as a deadline for a clear answer on the redeployment of the forces, with the assistance of all parties. We will know on Friday who will replace these forces. Right now there are two views. One is that the Amal Movement should replace the withdrawing forces, while the other is that circumstances are inappropriate for this.

The meeting was attended by 'Asim Qansuh, Muhsin Dallul, Akram Shuhayyib, Haytham Jum'ah, 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas, 'Ali al-'Abd, Ghassan Nasir, and Hasan Shalha from the Unification and Liberation Front; Mamduh Nawfal, Abu Khalid al-Shamal, Raji, and Mansur from the Palestinian groups; and Major Walid Hasa-natu from the Syrian observers.

Qansuh Interviewed on ULF, Palestinian Issue
PM121153 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
2 Oct 87 pp 15, 17

[Interview with Unification and Liberation Front Secretary General 'Asim Qansuh by Thurayya 'Asi—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] *Al-Hawadith*: Since your election as Unification and Liberation Front [ULF] Secretary, how do you rate ULF activities so far? What are your future expectations of it?

Qansuh: It is premature to judge the work of a front before it has been carried out, especially from the organizational viewpoint—setting up its branches in the provinces and calling on the general committee to confirm its political and economic program to solve outstanding problems. We are in the process of setting up

this front's bylaws and specifying the powers and tasks of its bureaus, in addition to discussing the—I do not want to say abnormal—situation in the south, and also the experiences which Walid Junblatt is going through with regard to the civilian administration in the mountain region. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: A verdict of failure was pronounced on the ULF before it came into being as a result of the experiment involving the National Union Front [NUF], which "was stillborn". How different are the circumstances? And why do you insist that the ULF is different and ought to succeed?

Qansuh: There are a number of factors which will allow the ULF to succeed. First of all the ULF has a leadership, a leadership body or higher council. There is no conflict as to who should lead this front, what party or person: Nabih Birri or Walid Junblatt, for example? This problem was one of the most important organizational factors which stood in our way in the NUF. But now there are other positive factors in addition to the organizational factor which has allowed me to assume the post of administrative secretary general of the ULF.

I do not intend to dominate the ULF or to solely speak on its behalf. On the contrary, Marwan Hamadah will be its official information spokesman, issuing statements, decisions or directives as the general situation and the legitimate, established program require.

On the other hand, and I say it frankly, the Palestinian issue remains the first thought for the national parties and Nabih Birri, in addition to mutual understanding on how to coordinate the struggle. That issue is fundamental.

In the past, that is to say when the NUF was founded, that factor was a point of controversy and contradiction especially with Walid Junblatt. After Birri made his initiative, I noticed that all sections of the front adopted the initiative and considered it as theirs and then set off to resolve the issue seriously and with complete political purity of mind.

In other words, I say with complete frankness that the initiative has made us admire the objectivity of Amal as represented by Nabih Birri and has brought it closer to the national line and program. It has eliminated that disagreement which kept us apart on the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people or even the bloody struggle which went with this conflict.

This is a very important and fundamental factor. There are other factors such as the south and how to coordinate the struggle there by using an operations room in conjunction with the Amal Movement, especially during this phase since there is a fierce struggle going on with forces or with fundamentalist movements which have moved from their position of fighting against Israel to a kind of different program.

It is a contradiction in the method of general analysis of the problem as a Lebanese-Arab problem or something else. What does of course concern us here is that all these forces fighting Israel should join in an alliance including Hizballah. This is a slogan which I put forward a few days ago without any fear. I repeat that we want all these forces to join in an alliance so that the opportunity to confront Israel is not lost in marginal conflicts.

Al-Hawadith: Can we consider the door to dialogue as having been opened?

Qansuh: I hope so. So far I have not had any reactions. There is some reproach over my recent statement in which I described some of these movements as seeking to discriminate between Persians and Arabs in their program. I say that this is not the fundamental or important issue. What is important as far as I am concerned is that the Hizballah group and members of these groups are my countrymen, and as long as they decide to fight Israel they are the closest people to my heart because I am a pan-Arabist, and the Palestinian cause and the struggle in the south to liberate the land are my two main causes.

The emphasis on the convictions of this national and pan-Arab work is very important. Since childhood we have never feared anyone in expressing our views. Everything else which is said apart from that is hypocrisy and lies, and we do not want to enter into these labyrinths.

There are no problems at the moment between myself and Hizballah.

Al-Hawadith: However it does have problems with other sections of the ULF?

Qansuh: So far this dispute has not been resolved, but that does not mean that whenever two parties differ with one another the ULF is liable to split.

One day I may differ with the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], but does that mean that I should drag the whole Arab liberation movement into fighting the PSP, for example? [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: How do you assess the Palestinian response to Minister Birri's initiative?

Qansuh: So far I have no wish to cast doubt on the subject. The response which has come is sufficient to solve the problem which existed, and I hope that it will end positively.

Al-Hawadith: Yasir 'Arafat was always accused of starting the war and being the one who planned it. What change has occurred to make you meet with his representatives and to have confidence in their position?

Qansuh: I hope to God that trust is justified because we are losing valuable blood, be it Lebanese or Palestinian. Some flareups are sometimes likely to happen from those

who have suffered from this agreement. However, so far I only see a positive situation, but I say that with some caution. As far as the future is concerned I cannot guarantee it. I am careful in dealing with this subject and I hope I am wrong and that Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] is the best human being in the world and that his organization will no longer commit violations and will work for the common good and in the interests of both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Now, Nabih Birri has submitted a very great and useful initiative capable of solving the problem between the Palestinians and Lebanese once and for all. So why not take advantage of it? Is it in the interests of any Palestinian to disrupt it? So far the meetings held in Sidon have all been positive. I wish to be optimistic rather than pessimistic about this particular subject.

Al-Hawadith: After the appearance of the ULF, it was announced that a general national conference would be held and then it was postponed. What are the reasons and what is the ULF position concerning the conference?

Qansuh: We still adhere to a fundamental view. We support the national conference called for by former President Franjiyyah and some political leaders such as Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, provided it adopts the ULF program issued at its recent meeting, which will unite and liberate the homeland and around which all loyal Lebanese will meet.

If this national conference is successful, and I have said this a thousand times, it ought to have a program or a particular basis for dealing with the Lebanese crisis and should not be a cover for the present political crisis, neither for President Amin al-Jumayyil nor for any break in present relations between ministers and the presidency of the Republic. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Do you anticipate a military settlement in the eastern region before the presidential elections?

Qansuh: I mentioned this before. If it does not happen now as a consequence of natural conditions, it will be postponed until early next spring, with the start of the final preparations for the presidential elections.

Al-Hawadith: It is said that General Michel 'Awn will have a role similar to that of [former President] Shihab?

Qansuh: God willing, I am not against that if General Michel 'Awn is like Fu'ad Shihab.

Al-Hawadith: Lastly, what is the latest concerning the matter of Rashid Karami's assassination?

Qansuh: As far as this matter is concerned it is being dealt with by Judge Ghamrah and as far as we are concerned the first clauses of the ULF program demand the identification of his killers. So far there has been nothing new but we still adhere to our position concerning this matter.

Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Mo'ayeri Arrives
JN141844 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1815 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] At 1630 today Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Iranian assistant deputy prime minister for political affairs, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus. He was received at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Mun'im Hamawi, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, and the chief of the Asian Desk at the Foreign Ministry. Mo'ayeri is accompanied by a delegation comprising a number of directors in the Iranian Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry.

Confers With Faruq al-Shar'
JN151158 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Iranian assistant deputy prime minister for political affairs, in the presence of Hoseyn Lavasani, the political director in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. Ways to promote and enhance relations between the two countries, current developments in the region, and issues of mutual concern were discussed.

Arab League's Klibi Received by Al-Asad
JN141526 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. Talks revolved around the situation and developments in the Arab arena.

Discusses Summit With Al-Shar'
JN141622 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 14 Oct (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with the Arab League secretary general today. Talks dealt with the current Arab situation in light of the emergency Arab summit to be held in Amman.

LE MONDE Notes Raimond's 'Friendly' Talks
PM140756 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Oct 87 p 3

[Francoise Chipaux dispatch: "Syrians Advocate Dialogue With Iran"]

[Text] Damascus—It was a "busy" and "fruitful" visit which was too short to enable all subjects to be examined. Jean-Bernard Raimond's visit to Damascus on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October marked the resumption of in-depth political dialogue between Paris and Damascus, during which each side was able to accurately explain its positions.

The many differences in approach did not spoil the friendly and even warm atmosphere which surrounded the foreign minister's talks, and he met with President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Faruq al-Shar', his Syrian counterpart.

The Iran-Iraq war and the tension in the Gulf put Damascus, which is Iran's main Arab ally, in a position which is sometimes tricky. On this point, Syria's stance is clear and can be summed up as follows: All attempts to drive Iran into a corner or to isolate it are counterproductive and the presence of Western fleets in or near the Gulf increases the danger of the war spreading.

Although the Syrian leaders understand the special reasons which prompted Paris to break off relations with Iran, they tried to convince Mr Raimond—the representative of a permanent member of the UN Security Council—of the need for dialogue with Iran, which they think is the only way to achieve a positive result. They think, not without reason, that only those who have influence in Tehran can have influence in the Gulf.

However, they are more aware than anybody that this influence can only be limited and subject to fluctuations in the internal situation in Iran itself. But they are expressing fears of seeing the Iranian revolution, hailed as positive in Damascus, being gradually reduced to hard-line Persian nationalism which would turn the conflict into an Arab-Persian confrontation. In Syria's view, giving support to Iran goes hand in hand with unconditional defense of the Arab nation.

Mr al-Shar' reaffirmed this in the joint press conference which he gave with Mr Raimond: "Iraq is part of the Arab nation, its territory is Arab, and we cannot accept that this should be ignored. But we cannot deny that Iraq started this war. Our bad relations with Iraq, for which Baghdad's leaders are responsible, do not prevent us from upholding our principles: guaranteeing freedom of navigation in the Gulf, preventing the involvement of other Arab countries in the war, and preventing the conflict from spreading."

Silence on Hostages

Given these stances, Mr Raimond reaffirmed French support for UN Security Council Resolution 598 and for its swift implementation. He explained the presence of the fleet in the need to protect French interests in the region, stating that there was no question of forming a kind of joint multilateral force in the Gulf. This position will not suffice to remove the Syrian leaders' hostility to the Western armada in the region.

But one thing is certain: The meeting between the Syrian and Iraqi presidents in Jordan last April was a failure and there have been very violent anti-Iraqi statements in Damascus since then.

With regard to the Lebanese crisis—the second most important subject discussed here and a more delicate subject for the French—the reaffirmation by the two sides of the need to defend Lebanon's integrity, sovereignty, and independence, in harmony with Syria, Mr Raimond stressed, cannot conceal the fact that there is a great deal of ambiguity.

Questioned by France about Hizballah's presence and influence, Damascus replied by invoking the danger posed by the Christian extremists.

The Syrian leaders blame President al-Jumayyil entirely for the present crisis, stressing that he has failed to seize any of the opportunities which have arisen, particularly the Damascus tripartite agreement signed in December 1985 by the leaders of the Lebanese, Shi'ite, Christian, and Druze militias. There can be no solution, they say, without an agreement among the moderate elements which would exclude the extremists, in other words, Hizballah and the Christian extremists.

At any event, the French delegation obtained no information about Syrian intentions with regard to the Lebanese presidential election in September 1988. Mr Khaddam apparently even stressed the difficulty of finding a quorum and agreeing on a name.

It was with President al-Asad, to whom he gave a verbal message from Mr Mitterrand and a written message from Mr Chirac, that Mr Raimond discussed the hostage question in greatest detail.

On this point, the foreign minister said very little, but it seems that the talks did not go any further than the customary reaffirmation of Syria's efforts and willingness to help solve the problem.

For the time being there is no suggestion that the Syrian Army has any intention of entering the southern suburb of Beirut, especially, it is stressed, because a military intervention would be likely to result in the killing of the hostages. This affair requires much more complex tactics which would have to satisfy the interests of Tehran and Damascus, if Syria were to intervene.

Syrian Advisers in Chad?

President al-Asad, who was relaxed, smiling, and talkative, questioned Mr Raimond at length about East-West negotiations and the disarmament question, before raising a subject which is not as unusual as it seems: Chad. Indeed, there are many rumors in Damascus of Palestinian fighters based in Damascus and of Syrian technicians and advisers being sent to Libya in addition to members of Walid Junblatt's Lebanese militia.

Although it is impossible to confirm this last point with certainty, one thing is certain: A Syrian military delegation visited Libya a few weeks ago. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi apparently requested military aid from Damascus.

Nonetheless, after being given a lengthy explanation of the French arguments on the Chadian conflict and the Aozou Strip, the Syrian leaders stressed that the dispatch of "Arab fighters" to Libya was not directed against Chad but was for the inter-Arab defense of Libya. What they are saying in substance is that, if Hisein Habre wants to occupy Libya, he will have all the Arabs against him. Arab solidarity prevails everywhere....

It is a sign of the times that terrorism was scarcely mentioned and the international conference on the Near East was only discussed by Mr al-Shar' and Mr Raimond.

Bangladesh

Chatak Town Clashes Kill 3, Injure 150 *BK140551 Hong Kong AFP in English 0450 GMT 14 Oct 87*

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 14 (AFP)—Police opened fire on an estimated 15,000 warring villagers during clashes in which three people died and some 150 people were injured, press reports said here Wednesday.

It was not immediately clear if the three deaths were caused by police fire or shots traded between villagers Tuesday at Chatak Town, 190 kilometres (118 miles) north-east of here.

Reports quoting local officials said police opened fire after earlier baton charges had failed to halt the violence. Seventeen people were arrested.

Among the injured were the sub-district administration head, a magistrate and five policemen. Three of the injured were in critical condition, the reports said.

Police immediately introduced a prohibitory order banning assemblies of four or more people and the carrying of arms in the area, the reports said.

The clashes erupted the day after a quarrel between two shop owners, the reports said. Tension mounted overnight as both sides rallied support and collected arms for a showdown.

The sub-district head, the magistrate and police reached the scene early Tuesday to disperse the warring groups but they then came under fire, press reports quoting officials said.

The government daily *Bangladesh Times* quoted the district head at nearby Sunamganj as confirming the three deaths. But he said he was not sure if the three were hit by police or shots from the clashing groups.

Ershad Departs for Canada Commonwealth Meet *BK111634 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 87*

[Text] President Ershad has arrived in Hong Kong on his way to the Canadian city of Vancouver. After an overnight stay, the president will leave for Vancouver tomorrow morning for attending the Commonwealth heads of government meeting. The 5-day ninth biennial Commonwealth summit begins on Tuesday. The president is accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad. The other members of his entourage include Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, and MP's Abdur Rahim and Mansura Mohiuddin.

Earlier, President Ershad was given a guard of honor by a smartly turned-out contingent drawn from three services at the Zia International Airport this morning. Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ministers, diplomats, and high civil and military officials were at the airport to see him off.

Ershad on Death of Communist Party Chief *BK101605 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 87*

[Text] President Ershad has condoled the death of the general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and parliament member, Mohammad Farhad, who died of a heart attack in Moscow yesterday. In a condolence message, the president prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury and Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury have also condoled his death.

Mr Mohammad Farhad had gone to Moscow for treatment in August last. He was 49.

India

Navy, Coast Guard Sink 4 LTTE Supply Boats *BK141242 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 14 Oct 87*

[Text] Madras, India, Oct 14 (AFP)—The Indian Coast Guard and Navy have sunk four boats ferrying weapons for Sri Lanka's main Tamil militant group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), official sources said here Wednesday. The boats were sunk late Tuesday in the narrow strip of sea known as the Palk Strait, which divides India and Sri Lanka, when they tried to flee from a joint Coast Guard-Navy patrol vessel, the sources said.

The boats had been loaded with arms at Vedaranyam coast in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to be supplied to LTTE guerrillas fighting Indian troops in the island's northern Jaffna town, the sources said. Each boat was believed to be carrying up to six men, but there was no word on what had happened to them.

"The Coast Guard and Navy asked the boats to stop and opened fire when they tried to get away," the sources told *Agence France-Presse* in this Tamil Nadu capital city where all Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups have offices. Tamil Nadu, where more than 50 million Indian Tamils live, served as a base for Tamil guerrilla groups during the four-year separatist campaign in Sri Lanka in which at least 6,000 people have died since 1983.

Meanwhile, security was tightened at the houses of all Tamil Nadu state ministers after police received an unsigned letter written on an LTTE letterhead threatening to kill a minister by late Wednesday. The houses were barricaded and policemen armed with sniffer dogs and metal detectors took up positions to prevent possible

assassinations, police sources said. The LTTE, however, issued a statement denying that its members had made any assassination threat or that its cadres were planning protests in Tamil Nadu.

Tripura State on Alert After Guerrilla Attack
BK141650 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 14 (AFP)—A maximum security alert was sounded in India's north-eastern frontier state of Tripura Wednesday after tribal guerrillas shot dead five people, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported. Police and paramilitary troops in the state bordering Bangladesh intensified patrolling and tightened security at particularly vulnerable targets after the killings late Tuesday in a northern Tripura village, PTI said. Guerrillas of the Tribal National Volunteers (TNV), who are fighting for a separate nation in the state, were blamed for the killings. The victims were believed to be Bengali-speaking, non-tribal settlers.

Reports here have said that the TNV is planning big attacks to coincide with Thursday's 38th anniversary of Tripura's joining with India. The TNV observes October 15 every year as Black Day. Tribals are the original inhabitants of the sub-continent, who live outside the region's rigid caste system. Tribals are also campaigning for a separate nation in Nagaland State, next to Tripura.

'Extremists' Kill 13

BK150346 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] In Tripura, the TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists in a fresh wave of violence killed 13 persons and injured 4 others in two separate incidents last night. The chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, told our Agartala correspondent this morning that the extremists raided Chandrashekhar colony in Amarpur subdivision of South Tripura District and killed 11 persons. In another incident at (Shinshin) village in Kailashahar subdivision of North Tripura District, the TNV killed two others. Paramilitary forces have rushed to the places.

Concern Expressed Over Racial Assault in U.S.
BK150955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] India has voiced her shock and concern over racial assaults on New Jersey's Indian community members in the United States. It has urged the U.S. authorities to take urgent steps to prevent such incidents. Indian officials in New York said that India's consul general and the embassy in Washington had taken up the matter with the U.S. Government.

Iran

BILD Reports Khomeyni Brain Blood Clot
DW150730 Hamburg BILD in German 15 Oct 87 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Khomeyni: Blood Clot-Operation in Vienna?"]

[Text] Is Khomeyni dying? According to information obtained by *Bild*, Iranian revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeyni (87) has a blood clot in his brain. A Swiss team of physicians was flown to Tehran to save his life. They examined the ayatollah and recommended an operation in Vienna (Austria).

Tehran Cites Reports of Attack on U.S. Tanker
LD151119 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] UPI reports that the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry and directors of shipping lines announced today that a U.S. tanker was hit by a missile at 0530 today, Tehran time, close to Al-Ahmadi port, Kuwait's main oil terminal. The tanker was set on fire. Referring to the possibility that the tanker may have been hit by an Iranian Silkworm missile, UPI added: This is the first time this weapon has been used to hit an oil tanker.

Reuter reports that smoke billowing from the burning ship darkened the sky in the vicinity for more than 1 hour. The sound of the missile's explosion shook Al-Ahmadi port and the city of Kuwait. Shortly thereafter the Al-Ahmadi refinery was shut down. AFP reports that the supertanker, *Sungari*, with a capacity of 275,933 tons, which belongs to the U.S. company OME [expansion unknown], was anchored off Kuwait, flying a Liberian flag. According to this report, as a result of being hit by the missile, the ship's tanks have been holed. Some operations have taken place to prevent further damage. Shipping sources say that when the *Sungari* tanker was hit by the missile, four other Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the U.S. flag were nearby.

Our colleague in London reports on this issue:

[Unidentified correspondent] Shipping sources in London today confirmed that a supertanker flying the Liberian flag was the target of an attack inside the Al-Ahmadi oil terminal in Kuwait. Some oil sources announced that the attack was launched using a missile. The Liberian oil tanker, *Sungari*, which some sources claim belongs to a U.S. company, was hit minutes after four Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the U.S. flag sailed out of the terminal. It is not yet known whether or not the oil tanker *Sungari* is among the oil tankers under U.S. escort.

Shipping sources described as horrible the intensity of the explosion on the *Sungari*. Western reporters in the region, citing the presence of ambulances and relief and

rescue teams at the Al-Ahmadi terminal, report a considerable number of casualties. However, no communique has yet been released by the Government of Kuwait in connection with this situation. Meanwhile, the shipping sources said that the intensity of the explosion and the noise shook the entire Al-Ahmadi oil terminal. They also reported that oil loading has stopped. The BBC External Services in London cited the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry, which announced the attack and named the damaged tanker, reported to be burning, as a U.S. vessel.

Attacks on Iraqi Centers 'Will Not Cease'
LD151120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a statement by the War Information Headquarters [WIH] announces: After repeated warnings regarding Iran's preemptive attacks on Iraqi military and industrial centers, the responsibility for any probable incident which might be suffered by Iraqi civilians rests with the Iraqi regime. While reiterating former warnings about the evacuation of areas around Iraqi military and economic centers and that only the four safe cities previously designated will be immune from the fire of the fighters of Islam, the statement says: The preemptive attacks of the fighters of Islam will not cease, while the evil acts of the Iraqi regime in attacking Iranian civilian targets, including mosques, schools and urban centers, continue.

The statement adds that since 23 August this year, 133 civilians have been martyred and 1,034 wounded as a result of Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian targets. The WIH statement stresses that attacks by the fighters of Islam are carried out only in order to stop attacks by the Iraqi regime on Iranian civilian centers. The statement says: If the Iraqi regime prevents people from going to the four safe cities, then responsibility for any incident experienced by civilians will rest with the rulers in Baghdad.

Guards Corps Navy Displays Speedboat Tactics
LD121859 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] The last day of the "Karbala'-3" maneuvers was held in Tehran's Azadi stadium's artificial lake. They were held to commemorate the epic deeds of the personnel of the navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and of those who were martyred as a result of the attack by the American criminals in the Persian Gulf. According to our correspondent, in these maneuvers which were attended by the commander of the navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and by various groups of people, the Guards Corps Navy demonstrated their naval combat operations. One of the commanders of these operations said the purpose of these maneuvers was to familiarize the people with speedboats and various naval tactics.

Anti-Aircraft Units Test Guns in Tehran Area
LD121052 Tehran
Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 87X

[Text] According to an IRNA report, a number of anti-aircraft units fired shots at 1045 today in the Tehran area, testing their anti-aircraft guns. An informed military source announced the news and stressed that this was not an air raid on Tehran. Some anti-aircraft guns fired test shots.

Mo'ayeri Departs for Talks in Damascus 14 Oct
LD141050 Tehran IRNA in
English 1045 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Ali Reza Mo'ayeri heading a delegation from Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry left here for Damascus, Syria, today. During his visit Mo'ayeri is to discuss regional and international issues with the Syrian officials.

Envoy to Doha Meets With Qatari Official
LD141650 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Qatar Mohammad Baqer Sakha'i conferred with Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani on bilateral relations and regional issues, in Doha Wednesday morning. Al Thani said that regional countries were concerned over the present situation in the Persian Gulf and expressed hope that the problems would soon be settled. He also described as 'fruitful' his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the United Nations during the 42nd U.N. General Assembly meet in September. In response, Sakha'i reiterated the Islamic Republic's willingness to have friendly relations with regional countries, and particularly Qatar.

Envoy to Moscow Meets With Vorontsov
NC150944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Naser Hayrani-Nobari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the USSR, met with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov on Tuesday afternoon. During this meeting matters pertaining to the UN Security Council were assessed and discussed and views were exchanged on recent developments in the Persian Gulf.

The report states that during this meeting, Vorontsov stated: Under present conditions, the United States will have to bear all responsibility for any possible incident in the region. He continued: The objective of the United States in concentrating its immense war fleet in the Persian Gulf is not only to stabilize its bases in the region. The United States entertains the insane idea of using any means to return Iran to its former situation

under the shah. He added: With the McFarlane incident, Americans tried to enter Iran from within. However, you did not allow them to succeed in this. Thus, they are now trying to use their fleet and exert pressure on Iran from the outside. They have been defeated in this so far; they not succeed in the future.

PRC Envoy, Larijani Discuss Persian Gulf
LD131735 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT
13 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—China's ambassador in Tehran Wang Benzuo conferred with deputy foreign minister for international and economic affairs Mohammad-Jawad Larijani on Persian Gulf developments, Tehran-Beijing relations and other issues of mutual interests. The Chinese envoy, pointing to the Persian Gulf developments, stressed on his country's stance concerning the need for withdrawal of foreign forces. Regional security is the responsibility of littoral states, he added. In response, Larijani condemned U.S. policies on intervening in the domestic affairs of Third World countries, and said that recent developments in Tibet proves U.S. conspiracies.

Religious Foreign Ministry Group Goes to PRC
LD110857 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT
11 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—An Iranian Delegation of religious personalities and Foreign Ministry Officials led by superintendent of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) Hojjat ol-Eslam Abbas Vaez Tabasi [name as received] left Tehran for Beijing Sunday. The Iranian delegates are guests of Chinese officials in Two Chinese provinces with large Muslim population. In an interview with IRNA in Mashhad Saturday, the superintendent of the holy shrine in Khorasan Province said that during his visit to China he would discuss with Chinese officials Iran's standpoints on the war and such other topics as U.S. provocations in the Persian Gulf and Saudi massacre of Muslims in Mecca on July 31.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam who is also Imam Khomeyni's personal representative said he would also visit academic and religious centers in China and that he would invite Iranian friends among Chinese students to study in Iran. Vaez-Tabasi said the Iranian foundation of the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad has volunteered to perform tilework of a major Muslim mosque in China in a near future. He is also taking a precious hand-woven Persian carpet as gift to a major Muslim mosque in that country.

Tehran Cites Musavi Remarks to Spanish Weekly
NC150821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Our prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, has given an exclusive interview to Spain's most widely circulated weekly *Interviu*. In this interview Mr Musavi

stated: If the United States attacks us in the Persian Gulf, there is no reason why we should respond in the same area. We will expand the area and, in the event of a direct confrontation with the United States, we will use all of our worldwide resources.

The Spanish correspondent asked: Do you think that the recent visit by the UN secretary general will lead to an end to the Iran-Iraq war? Musavi answered: I think that the present U.S. policy leaves no hope for peace.

In answer to a question on what Iran's reaction will be if the UN Security Council approves a resolution on an Iran-Iraq arms embargo, the prime minister answered: I do not know how an arms embargo on Iran and Iraq can help in ending the war. Nevertheless, this will cause greater harm to Iraq because our country tends to be self-sufficient in arms matters.

The correspondent asked: Why is the Iranian Government insisting that the United Nations officially recognize Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as an aggressor in the war? Musavi answered: Recognition of Saddam Husayn as the aggressor is an unalterable principle that we will not forego, because if steps are not taken to uproot aggression, further conflicts may arise. We want the war to end in such a way that we will be allowed to reconstruct our country in an atmosphere of peace and calm. After the aggressor's recognition, his punishment must also be taken into consideration.

The correspondent asked: How long do you think this war will continue? Can the Iranian nation bear up indefinitely? The prime minister answered: We are prepared to tolerate the war for a long period. However, we want it to end as soon as possible. If our conditions are not met, we will resist as long as necessary. The leader of the revolution stated at the outset of the war that if this war were to continue for 20 years, we will resist. The situation is the same now. Economically speaking, this war has decreased our economic dependence and has helped toward our self-sufficiency. However, at the same time it has inflicted major damage on us. In view of this situation, we must resist.

The Spanish correspondent asked: The Western press has always described the Islamic leaders as a group of fanatics who disregard realities. Do you consider yourself a fanatic? The prime minister replied: If resistance against plots and plundering is fanaticism and if struggles for independence, dignity, and human values constitute fanaticism, then yes, we are fanatics. However, if all these are not fanaticisms, we are not fanatics.

The correspondent asked about Iran's solution for preventing a confrontation in the Persian Gulf.

The prime minister stated: We think that if Kuwait declares its impartiality—in other words, if it shows by its acts that it is impartial—the problem will end. The

presence of foreign ships in the Persian Gulf has exacerbated the tension and this waterway is now less secure. The ships reach their destinations on a delayed basis, encountering more difficulties. The possibility of a confrontation has increased. We think these ships should leave the area. In order for attacks on shipping to end, pressure must be exerted on Saddam's regime, thus eliminating problems in the Persian Gulf. It would be to everyone's benefit to end Saddam's warmongering. Saddam is seeking to expand the war worldwide in order to save himself. Everyone should strive to limit the war and to prevent its spread. Moreover, powers like the United States should abandon the idea that they own the world and that they are the ones to determine the beginning and the end of a war. Today, the world is not orchestrated according to the wish of the United States.

In answer to a question by the correspondent on the Soviet Union's stand, the prime minister said: The Soviets have adopted a much more realistic stand on the revolution and on the war than the West. Their analyses, unlike those of America, are not half-baked. Maybe this is why we have coexisted for years. The Soviet Union knows it cannot exert too much pressure on us. With what we are now witnessing in the Persian Gulf, this pressure should be less. We have always held talks with the Soviets; these talks are continuing at present.

The correspondent asked: Is it true that the Soviets have proposed that in exchange for a halt in their assistance to Iraq, you should stop supporting the Afghan fighters? Prime Minister Musavi answered: We have ongoing talks with the Soviets on Afghanistan and on Iraq. However, we consider these talks two different subjects. We support a nonaligned Afghanistan with good relations with its neighbors, including the Soviet Union. This solution will end conflicts in Afghanistan. On the one hand, the Russian intervention is strongly affecting the Soviets themselves, both militarily and politically. On the other hand, we believe that the presence of Soviets in Afghanistan has been used as a pretext for the U.S. presence in the region. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan will mean that Americans will no longer be able to use this pretext. When the Americans leave, calm will return. This has been the gist of our talks with the Soviets.

The correspondent asked our prime minister: Spain's recognition of Israel dealt a strong blow on diplomatic relations between Spain and Iran. Why did your government decide to recall its ambassador from Madrid, while no other Muslim country did so? Musavi answered: Anti-Zionist sentiment in our country is extremely strong. Traditionally, Spain has always sided with Arabs and Muslims. Spain was among the European countries that, after the formation of Israel and the occupation of Palestine, did not recognize Israel. Naturally, the establishment of these relations deeply offended our country.

The correspondent asked: How do you describe current relations with Spain? The prime minister stated: Our relations with Spain are good and of course they can

expand. The only element that can threaten these relations is decisions like those made by the United States on the Persian Gulf issue and on Iraq. Until such date, our relations will be good. Personally, I think our relations in the economic and political fields can expand.

The Spanish correspondent asked: Do you oppose free trade?

The prime minister answered: Iran's economy is a mixed economy. We have a very strong private sector which cooperates with the cooperatives and public sectors. Of course, the private sector complements the two other sectors. This is stipulated in the Constitution and we think that this is in the national interest. Our system tends toward anticapitalism. The weaker sector at present is the cooperative sector, because our country does not have great experience in this field. However, the government is striving to strengthen the cooperatives. This effort has been portrayed as an effort to weaken the private sector; this is not so.

In 1360 [year beginning 21 March 1981] when I assumed the prime minister's position, there was a sharp debate in the country between those who claimed that the properties confiscated after the revolution should be returned to their former owners or privatized, and those who opposed this. I opposed the idea of returning the confiscated properties and resisted it. Now the Majlis has agreed that the government should assume responsibility for confiscated industries. In the event that it is necessary to privatize these industries, it is preferred they be handed over to the workers in the form of stocks rather than to the capitalists. Therefore, in implementing the Constitution, the government system aims to prevent the domination of capitalism in our country on the one hand, and to prevent everything from accruing into the hands of the government, on the other. We describe this as Islamic economy.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Officer Graduates
LD121423 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report, a graduation ceremony for students and cadets of the seventh term of the Gendarmerie officers' training course was held this morning at the 22d Bahman Garrison in the presence of the honorable families of Gendarmerie martyrs; the chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces; the imam's representative and head of the Gendarmerie politico-ideological office; the imam's representative and commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees; Gendarmerie and Navy commanders; the chief of police; and military attaches of foreign countries.

After awarding certificates and prizes to model graduates, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, said: If the armed forces are the manifestation of the revolution and bear its

messages, they are the best means of guaranteeing the correctness of our course. Fortunately, in today's society, the armed forces spearhead the society's movement. The Gendarmerie have discovered their true mission and proceed accordingly.

Stressing the importance of the responsibilities of the armed and security forces, particularly the Gendarmerie, he said: Today, your responsibilities are the opposite of those in the past. Today, you are in the service of wisdom, you are responsible for preventing injustice and oppression against the weak, and for protecting the law. You must strengthen righteousness.

Describing the missions of the Islamic Revolution, he added: These missions enable us not to be influenced by the aggressive policies of the powers of the two blocs, but to act righteously and truthfully, speak and hear freely, and not to yield to pressure. Today, you can see how the world's satans have attacked the Islamic Republic, to destroy this oppressed nation that seeks nothing but its rights. The reason for the presence of all the NATO forces amassed in the south of our country, and for all the mischiefs of Arab reaction—particularly the 'Aflaqi Ba'thists—can be found within the context of the Islamic Revolution. Whatever we do for this revolution has value. The way that has opened up for the world's oppressed masses cannot be closed. Those who lead this movement, namely the armed forces, are more valuable than others. Once again, under the protection of Islam and the leadership of the imam, and thanks to the efforts of these people, the blood of the martyrs and the patience of their families, Iran will find its rightful place in history. You, the armed forces, and this nation will reach the proper destination.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council called on all graduates to perform their duties fully and to symbolize the wisdom and fairness of the Islamic Republic and the decisiveness of the law in their dealings with the public. After praising the Gendarmerie personnel for their efforts at the fronts and in other parts of our country, the Majlis speaker stressed: There should be coordination and cooperation with other forces in security matters. This cooperation would be fruitful.

Khamene'i Speech at Pilots' Graduation
LD111938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Text] This afternoon graduation ceremonies were held by the command and air staff of the pilot training college of the Shahid Khazra'i Air Training Institute [title as heard] in the presence of President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, at Tehran's Air Force base. According to a Central News Unit report, during these ceremonies Mr Khamene'i gave a speech and referred to the armed forces' important role in guarding and protecting the Islamic homeland and the gains of the Islamic revolution. He said: Today, global

arrogance and counterrevolution are angry with the movement and change created in various departments of the armed forces and are amazed and worried about these changes.

Referring to the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf, the Supreme Defense Council chairman said: The United States is not a defender in the Persian Gulf; it is an aggressor. We stress again today that it would be in the United States' interest to leave the region today, not 2 months from now. Global arrogance will not reap any benefit from its harsh and unjustified presence in the Persian Gulf. The president added: In the war with Iraq we feel capable and powerful; our demands and objectives have not changed at all. So long as Saddam remains in power, there is no possibility of establishing permanent peace in the region. We favor real security and true peace.

Mr Khamene'i added: We will continue our resistance, while inflicting blows, and we will destroy the enemy, who is weakened now. We will live like brothers with the regime that takes power [in Iraq in the future]. The global mass media should not waste their time fabricating news. He said: The panic shown by global arrogance in its attempts to attract support is caused by its seeing the Islamic Republic gaining success and victory in a wide area; this is a fact.

In conclusion, the president said: Should global arrogance succeed in defeating the great Islamic movement, it would breathe a sign of relief, otherwise, the world would become too small for it to pursue its arrogant objectives.

On the basis of this report, the Supreme Defense Council chairman awarded prizes at the end of the ceremonies to the top training commanders and teachers, and insignia to the pilot training college graduates.

Khamene'i Meets With Information Officials
LD112306 Tehran IRNA in English 2008 GMT
11 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday the Islamic Republic is passing the most sensitive stage since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979. The power of [words indistinct] global arrogance in a critical dilemma, he added. Speaking at a meeting with Information Ministry officials, President Khamene'i said global arrogance has realized the fact that a fresh and creative force has appeared in the world with which it (global arrogance) should [words indistinct] come to terms.

The president pointed that global arrogance has mobilized [words indistinct] in a bid to force the Islamic revolution to a compromise. Because, he added, it has become well aware that Iran's diplomatic and popular

power coupled with the fact the Islamic Republic is on the threshold of a military victory over the Ba'athist regime of Iraq. [sentence as received]

Khamene'i emphasised that each blow dealt to the U.S. by Iran in the Persian Gulf equal to ten blows of the arrogance which boasts of being "undefeatable". The Islamic Republic believes the Persian Gulf is a snare for the U.S. and will eventually force its withdrawal from the region, albeit with substantial losses, he added. "We declare that we have the upper hand [words indistinct] the enemy's military powers," he stressed concluding "it is Iran which deals the 'last blow' on the U.S."

OPEC Production Committee Meets Khamene'i
LD121906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] The Production Supervisory Committee, a high-ranking OPEC committee, led by Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister and OPEC conference chairman, were received by President Khamene'i, this morning. The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Aqazadeh; Kazempur-Ardabili, deputy oil minister for international affairs; the Indonesian and Venezuelan oil ministers; the ambassadors of Nigeria, Venezuela, and Indonesia to Tehran; and the Nigerian oil minister and current chairman of the OPEC conference.

The meeting began with praise for the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for OPEC policies, in spite of its involvement in a war, and a characterization of such support as a factor for stability in the oil market. The OPEC chairman said: OPEC's policy is to stabilize prices by controlling production. However, some countries unfortunately produce more than their allocated quotas. These countries risk endangering oil prices. Stressing the productive and firm role played by Iran, he added: We have been able to prevent falling prices in the oil market so far, thanks to valuable cooperation by the Islamic Republic of Iran. We believe that in the future also, Iran, as a founding member of OPEC, will support an organization which has confronted many of the wealthiest industrialized countries of the world.

President Khamene'i later expressed pleasure with the efforts made by the Production Supervisory Committee and, while announcing the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm support for OPEC resolutions and for its creative policies, stated: OPEC is the only influential economic organization in the world which belongs to the Third World. It must be greatly strengthened because this organization plays a role in countering the great political powers, despite their efforts to weaken OPEC. Pointing out that OPEC controls the highest quantity of reserves and resources of oil in the world today, the president added: If we strengthen OPEC's role as it deserves to be strengthened and if we give it a prominent position in

the world and preserve it by uniting completely, then we will have provided a source of blessings and benefits for hundreds of millions of people in OPEC member countries.

Pointing out that OPEC must demonstrate a high level of competence and ability right from the beginning, the president termed acts by those intending to damage the fundamental and effective role of OPEC to be treason. He said: We cannot expect assistance from the great economic and political powers of the world—whose objectives and plans are to hoard global wealth—but we should expect this sort of cooperation from OPEC. Therefore, we must do our utmost to preserve this organization.

While declaring the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm support for OPEC's policy on national quotas, Khamene'i condemned violations of OPEC resolutions by any member country stating: This sort of action is tantamount to disrespect for OPEC decisions and, in the final analysis, goes against the interests of other OPEC member countries. The supervisory committee must carefully pursue all violations. In conclusion, our country's president stressed that oil prices must regain their appropriate and true level and expressed support for efforts by OPEC to increase and stabilize oil prices at their real level.

Holds Tehran News Conference
LD121927 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Three oil ministers, all members of the OPEC Production Supervisory Committee, held a news conference at Tehran airport this afternoon and responded to questions by domestic correspondents. The oil ministers expressed their desire for an increase in oil prices at the forthcoming OPEC meeting. Mr Rilwanu Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister, said: We have agreed to maintain the current official oil prices until the end of this year. However, at our December meeting we will consider a price increase, depending on the level of demand and the market situation.

Commenting on the same subject, our country's oil minister said: There is an understanding among the majority of OPEC members that the \$18 per barrel price should rise to \$20 at the next meeting. The Nigerian oil minister, who is the current chairman of the OPEC conference, referred to the level of demand for OPEC oil and production levels and said: OPEC currently produces between 19.5 and 20 million barrels of oil per day. However, the market can absorb around 17 to 18 million barrels. He added: At the moment, there is a possibility of increasing demand. After the last OPEC meeting, prices went up to \$20 or \$22 per barrel. Therefore, if some order is established, we may be able to increase both prices and production levels over the long term. However, this should be done gradually.

During the same news conference, the Indonesian and Venezuelan oil ministers warned against repercussions stemming from a lack of agreement on production that would cause a repetition of what happened in 1986. The Indonesian oil minister said: If production is increased, OPEC members will be faced with problems this winter which will work against us next spring and summer.

Mentioning the Iraqi issue, the OPEC conference chairman said: Iraq, from every point of view, is outside OPEC quotas. An issue which will be raised at the next meeting is how to make Iraq accept quotas within the OPEC framework. If we are unable to persuade Iraq, we will not be able to reach an agreement. When asked about ways available to force a country to adhere to OPEC agreements, he noted the members' awareness of the damage caused by a lack of agreement and the subsequent reduction in prices, and also noted their goodwill in accepting quotas and prices and stressed: All OPEC members want to force Iraq to accept the OPEC decision. In conclusion, he referred to problems faced by oil ministers over decisions to solve some of the current problems of the organization and said: By traveling to 13 OPEC member countries and negotiations with the heads of all these countries, we hope to solve these problems.

Velayati Announces Seminar on Saudi Shrines
*LD100924 Tehran IRNA in English 0707 GMT
10 Oct 87*

[Text] Mashhad, Oct. 9, IRNA—An international seminar of politicians and religious figures of the Islamic states will be held in Tehran in near future to explore the ways and means for exercising Muslim-world superintendence on the holy shrines in Mecca and Medina, said here foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Friday. Velayati who was talking to a group of clerics of Mashhad theological school also said that the seminar to be hosted by the Islamic Guidance (Ershad Islami) and Foreign Ministry will reflect on the massacre of Hajj pilgrims in Mecca on July 31 and explore the ways and means for entrusting superintendence of holy shrines in Mecca and Medina to a single body of Muslim nations.

Reflecting on current developments at the Persian Gulf he said that there are now 85 U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf by which the U.S. means to intimidate littoral states and continue to plunder their resources. Velayati noted that the reactionary regimes in the region will burn in the fire they have lit. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran will be the ultimate winner in the war and that it will deliver such a blow to the U.S. to make it pull out off the region abjectly. He also said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has diplomatic relations with 110 countries of the world and that it is continuously broadening its relations with other countries in political, economic, scientific and industrial fields.

Commentary Says Faith Stronger Than Stingers
*LD111348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1107 GMT 11 Oct 87*

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In response to the renewed mischief of the Iraqi regime, the fighters of Islam have again fired a surface-to-surface missile against a military garrison in Baghdad. In addition, late last week two other missiles were fired against Baghdad, and for the first time, the regime of Saddam admitted that these missiles hit some areas of Baghdad. The firing of these missiles against Baghdad and a clear confession by some Western media about the accuracy of these missiles takes place when some Western propaganda is commenting on the Iraqi weapons' capability and Iran's lack of effective and advanced military equipment. Moreover, following the attack by the U.S. military forces against vessels of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian Gulf waters, the U.S. Defense Department openly noted the possibility of Iranian armed forces possessing Stinger missiles. The Pentagon announced that comprehensive investigations into how Iran acquired these missiles have started.

Shortly after these matters were raised in the United States, the commander of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, referring to current Persian Gulf events, specifically stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been successfully producing Stinger missiles for some time now. It should be noted that the Pentagon's concern over the presence of such missiles in the hands of the Iranian forces is due to the fact that the use of these missiles increase the chances of hitting U.S. helicopters and aircraft in the Persian Gulf.

The important point is that U.S. helicopters and aircraft, which are currently playing a supposedly pivotal role for U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, would be unable to significantly reduce their vulnerability by flying higher than the ceiling of such missiles and still be able to maintain operational effectiveness. (Following the publication of reports) dealing with this issue in well-known U.S. papers, a senator who is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence clearly stated in an interview with *The Washington Post* that should Iran possess Stingers then this is the (?worst case) scenario in the Persian Gulf. In the course of his interview, he said: Iran is one of our [word indistinct] enemies and may possess one of our (?best) weapons in one of the most sensitive areas of the world. Moreover, another U.S. official referred to this subject and said that if Iranians get the chance to use Stingers, then they may (?engulf) the Persian Gulf in the flames of their anger.

In any case, ignoring the material capabilities of the fighters of Islam in dealing blows against the enemies of Islam and [words indistinct], production of military equipment and efforts to reach self-sufficiency in the military industries, it should be said that the spirit of

sacrifice, faith, and selflessness, and the determination of this nation are weapons having more far-reaching effects than usual, even if one puts the effects of military equipment within the same framework. Therefore, it is necessary for Reagan's government and for all other U.S. factions to be more concerned with the presence of the effective, crushing, and sharp weapons of faith and Islam in Iran than the presence, use, and results of Stinger missiles in the Persian Gulf. They should refrain from continuing their cruel and warmongering policies in the region, otherwise the Muslim Iranian nation is ready to show U.S. and British military forces the capabilities and effectiveness of the force of Islam and of a faith of greater dimension than that found in Lebanon.

U.S. Tension Over Saudi Arms Deal Noted
LD121842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1110 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Political commentary entitled: "Reagan Rewards the Regime Ruling Over the Hijaz"]

[Text] Yesterday U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington, who has recently travelled to the region, held a news conference. He expressed his approval of the assistance given by regional countries to the U.S. fleet. He said: We are receiving whatever we need regarding repairs to ships and logistical facilities from the countries of the Gulf littoral. During this period, Herrington visited Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Abu Dhabi, and it was expected that before his departure for Egypt and Morocco, he would also visit the Hijaz. Of course, this visit would take place when a number of the region's countries, while cooperating and assisting U.S. troops, are, on the one hand, worried about a full-fledged war breaking out in the Persian Gulf, and on the other hand, are taking note of internal contradictions plaguing the ruling U.S. Administration, the law limiting the war powers [as heard] of the President, and specific experiences, such as the hasty retreat of the multinational forces from Lebanon.

The regional governments fear that the Reagan administration might, after suffering a series of military defeats, withdraw from the region in humiliation, leaving them to face the wrath of Muslim nations on their own—in spite of having been so friendly with and helpful to the United States. The Reagan administration, in turn, is trying to involve and encourage the said governments all the more deeply in practical and military cooperation with the United States, because it is aware that the said countries are not absolutely confident about the continuity and stability of Washington's undertakings.

For sometime now, officials of the Reagan administration, while expressing appreciation and thanks for the services and cooperation that the regime ruling over the Hijaz has given to U.S. troops, have been actively endeavoring to elicit a positive response from the U.S. Congress regarding the sale of a collection of advanced

weapons worth \$1.4 billion to the regime ruling over the Hijaz. What is interesting is that after a substantial number of Congressmen expressed their opposition to giving this equipment to the regime ruling the Hijaz, the Reagan administration, in an unprecedented move, dropped the inclusion of the air-to-surface Maverick missiles—which Reagan's opponents were mostly concentrating on—from the said package, and introduced other limitations concerning the conditions attached to giving these weapons to Riyadh—conforming to the demands of those who originally opposed the sale.

This step is unprecedented from the standpoint that, Reagan, as a rule, presents the first phase of his proposal to the Congress in writing and then, after the legal procedures are over, he readjusts his proposal to be in line with the existing vote. However, the sensitivity of conditions in the Persian Gulf and the need to compensate the Saudi rulers for their very friendly cooperation with the U.S. forces are so great that, without waiting for the arms package deal to pass through the aforementioned stages, Reagan, at the first sign of disagreement among members of Congress, embarked on such a measure [eliminating Maverick missiles from the deal]. Of course, a substantial part of the opposition in Congress arises chiefly from the anxieties associated with the victories of the Islamic Revolution when Iran began to deploy advanced military weapons in its struggle against the oppressive policies of the United States. This turn of events has caused the supporters of Israel in the U.S. Congress to be very sensitive about the sale of advanced military weapons to dependent and weak regimes, and to call for more limitations in this area.

In any case, it is regrettable that these days, the rulers of Saudi Arabia, by taking charge of a substantial part of the facilities and enormous wealth of the Muslims, have concentrated all their efforts on supporting the enemies of Islam, thus reviving the possibilities for the realization of Washington's repressive policies.

Tehran Views U.S. Debate Over War Powers Act
LD101703 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1110 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] The title of our second political commentary for today is "The Declaration of Support by the Ruling U.S. Administration for Reagan's Aggressive Policies."

Following the savage attack by U.S. helicopters in the Persian Gulf, the Reagan administration, with this warmongering act, has once again caused anxiety inside and outside the United States. Some U.S. senators believe last Thursday's events provide strong enough reasons for demonstrating the perilous state of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf and have called for Reagan to acknowledge this and officially announce to Congress the probability of military hostilities in the Persian Gulf.

If Reagan does this, Congress will be able to independently make decisions after 60 days, regarding the presence of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf. However, in order to circumvent this kind of limitation, the Reagan administration has so far refused to realize that the U.S. forces are in a hazardous situation in the Persian Gulf and to present an official report on this situation to Congress.

The latest attack by U.S. helicopters has resulted in a new wave of anxiety and fear in the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Senate, with 52 votes in favor and 37 votes against, approved a proposal to resume discussing the War Powers Act. This decision, however, met with strong reaction from the Reagan administration, because the Reagan administration believes that the imposition of a time limit on the presence of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf will in practice result in lowering the confidence of European and non-European allies in this region.

Following a series of informal talks—and in spite of its initial decision—the Senate finally agreed that if the President is required to make an official report, that report can be made within 60 days instead of 48 days. Therefore, Reagan will still have 90 more days to do something about the U.S. troops, independent of Congress. This reversal by the Senate was due to the fact that many members of Congress—in spite of their disagreement with Reagan's dangerous policies in the Persian Gulf and their anxiety over the uncertain military fate of U.S. troops—are also worried that the intensification of differences and factionalism between Congress and the Administration and the imposition of a time limit would make these forces even more vulnerable. This retreat by the senators was basically not because they agree with Reagan's policies but rather their fear of and anxiety over increasing the vulnerability of U.S. forces.

Noting the previous opposition expressed by Congress regarding the protection of Kuwaiti tankers, other decisions—such as Congress' statement on the economic boycott of the Islamic Republic of Iran—are worthy of examination. It is evident that this apparent solidarity will not last long should the consequences of Reagan's policy become apparent. Moreover, if Congress thinks that by declaring its support for Reagan's aggressive policies and showing unity it will be able to ensure the security of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, it should know that Iran's Muslim people do not really pay any attention to these political games while they are engaged in efforts to achieve their goals and just demands. As they have shown before, whether or not the factions of arrogance are united or not does not alter the just demands and the iron will of this risen ummah. Congress thinks that by resorting to such strategies it will be able to keep the European allies in the region and reduce the vulnerability of U.S. forces as much as possible.

A brief look at the latest remarks by the Belgian ambassador in Tehran and the statement issued yesterday by the Italian Government clearly show that in spite of what

the Reagan administration thinks and in spite of Congress' maneuvers, the ranks of those countries that have sent military forces to the area are not so solid. With the first signs of an all-out war, these countries will immediately try to turn the actual battle over to the parties fanning the flames—that is, U.S. and British forces—and to quickly withdraw their military forces from the region. Therefore, if these realities are ignored, there will be very serious consequences for all U.S. factions.

U.S. Attempt To 'Overshadow' UN Report Noted
LD101415 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1057 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the announcement that a U.S. helicopter has been shot down by the fighters of Islam, while denying the report on the shooting down of the helicopter by the fighters of Islam in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. authorities have declared that two U.S. military personnel died in an accident when their jeep went off the road into the coastal waters in Port Salman, Bahrain, Thursday night. The news of these two deaths, coinciding with the shooting down of the U.S. helicopter in the Persian Gulf, strengthens the belief that these individuals could well have been the crewmen of the downed U.S. helicopter.

The fact that U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger insists on denying the shooting down of the U.S. helicopter, together with the fact that the death of the two U.S. military personnel in Bahrain is suspicious—it has been decided not to reveal their names—underlines the increased helplessness of the U.S. ruling establishment, especially the Pentagon authorities. They are helpless in the face of the consequences of recent U.S. misdeeds that have initiated a new phase of this war—a full-fledged war which already has become inevitable due to the misdeeds of the United States.

Meanwhile, in connection with the barbarous attack by the U.S. helicopters on the patrol boats of the Islamic Republic of Iran—an attack which reveals the warmongering objectives of the ringleaders of the White House in the Persian Gulf—Foreign Minister Velayati sent a message yesterday sent to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, describing the United States' responsibility in starting a full-fledged war in the region.

The foreign minister's message also said that, just a few days after the latest aggression of the U.S. military forces against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, once again the inflammatory policies of the U.S. Government were revealed by the attack of U.S. military helicopters on the patrol boats of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps near Farsi Island. U.S. aggression and military provocations in the region are expanding daily, and yet Washington claims that it has sent its fleets—armed to the teeth—to the region motivated by a love for peace and the restoration of security.

The misdeeds of the United States in the Persian Gulf are all a blatant violation of international law and a violation of the sovereign rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The recent provocative U.S. action also assists the provocations of warmongering Iraq aimed at heightening tension in the region. This political and military identity of objectives is being achieved at a time when the U.S. Government—having violated Security Council Resolution No 598, which deplores any increase in tension in the region by any country—has repeatedly claimed to be neutral in the war imposed by the Iraqi ruling regime on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, the recent U.S. provocative action in the Persian Gulf, which has only served to heighten tension and spread it to other areas, has aimed to overshadow the plan of the UN secretary general and his efforts in this regard. In fact, the United States intends to oppose the report presented by the secretary general to the Security Council—a report which the Islamic Republic of Iran views positively. Having done that, the United States intends to propose its own plan that aims to pressure the Islamic Republic to end the war.

The U.S. efforts here, as well as its efforts to overshadow the efforts of the secretary general and Security Council, are aimed at preventing an outcome in favor of Iran. Such a favorable result for Iran will be achieved if a special committee is set up to identify and present the aggressor. The Islamic Republic of Iran holds the United States responsible for starting a full-fledged war and for the very dangerous consequences of violating international rules. The Islamic Republic of Iran further believes that the only way to prevent the expansion of the tension is the speedy withdrawal of U.S. forces, as well as the forces of its allies, from the waters of the Persian Gulf.

At the same time the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to embark on any measure in defense of its interests and to counter the foolish U.S. provocations—provocations whose sole objective is the violation of the sovereign rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tehran Views Velayati's Briefing For Envoys
LD121532 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1103 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Political commentary: "The Remarks of Dr Velayati Explaining the Positions and Views of the Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[Text] Yesterday, at a gathering of ambassadors, charges d'affaires and diplomatic envoys of foreign countries held in Tehran, Dr Velayati described the official positions and views of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the militarist and aggressive intent of the United States toward Islamic Iran. This positive move by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs in informing world public opinion about Washington's hostile intentions toward the Islamic Republic of Iran took place at a time when, by

sending separate messages to international organizations—including the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization—Dr Velayati clarified the aggressive goals pursued by Washington.

One of the main points made in explaining the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran is that by attacking the commercial vessel *Iran-Ajr* and the three Iranian speedboats, Washington has started an all-out war against Islamic Iran. By noting the tense situation and Washington's role in increasing this tension, one can see that all the initial declarations by the United States about its presence in the Persian Gulf have been overshadowed by the dispatch of more than 24,000 military forces and the concentration of a large number of frigates in the region. The U.S. war minister [as heard] no longer speaks of maintaining the security of navigation in international waters or protecting tankers—claims that are viewed as ridiculously inept masks hiding Washington's vile militaristic intentions. Now he talks of the downfall of the Islamic system ruling over Iran.

Most U.S. military experts now believe that with its military presence in the Persian Gulf, the United States is now pursuing goals which were not at first mentioned. For instance, one of these goals was to prevent certain developments in Iraq. This was one of the main topics in Dr Velayati's remarks yesterday. A brief glance at the position of the Iraqi regime at the time when the U.S. presence started in the region shows that Washington sent its military forces to the region at a time when the Iraqi forces were quite desperate and weak, and the danger of the downfall of the 'Aflaqi regime had been seriously discussed in the West. The United States started its military onslaught precisely at a time when hopes of the Iraqi military maintaining its position had turned to despair. At that point, Washington decided to join the battle and to open a new front in order to reduce the pressure exerted on the Baghdad regime.

Although U.S. military policies in the Persian Gulf will eventually end up in defeat—as Dr Velayati stated—the expansion of Washington's militarist policies and U.S. involvement in an all-out war will not only have very dangerous and unforeseen consequences for the United States, but also for the entire region. The Islamic Republic of Iran has so far tried to prevent the expansion of the war. However, as has been clearly stressed by the high-ranking officials of our country, the Muslim Iranian people will not leave aggression unanswered. After the martyrdom and wounding of a number of the forces of monotheism at the hands of U.S. forces, our people regard the United States as an enemy who has dispatched forces from the other side of the world and wishes to confront a steadfast and heroic nation.

Another fundamental point raised by the Islamic Republic since the presence of foreign forces in the region—also referred to by Dr Velayati—is that the tension created by these forces in the Persian Gulf, along with

U.S. provocations and aggression, has made the withdrawal of foreign forces a necessity in order to achieve real security. There is no doubt that if clashes are started by the United States, Washington will also involve its allies. Moreover, the fire lit by the United States will also engulf others. This point should be borne in mind: An all-out war started by the United States will not be limited to the region; it will increase its dimensions and may even inflict an unforeseen calamity upon the entire world.

Militarist U.S. politicians should bear in mind that if the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran are exposed to serious danger, U.S. forces will not remain immune in any part of the world. Washington's interests and bases in all parts of the world will be threatened.

'Pseudo-Clergyman' Executed by Stoning
LD131210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] By order of the special court for [trial of] the clergy, a pseudo-clergyman, named 'Ali Shahidi, son of Moharram, who had been arrested on several charges of extortion, fraud, drinking alcoholic drinks, possession of narcotics, and gross immorality, was condemned to death by stoning. The verdict has been carried out.

Communique No 2,989 Details Ship Searches
LD141626 Tehran IRNA in English
1520 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 14, IRNA—Iran's gunboats intercepted seven cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, said a military communique here Wednesday. The 2989th communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that at least 19 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded with part of their positions and 10 gun emplacements set ablaze in the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Tuesday.

Iran's Muslim combatants shelled a group of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Northwestern Sector, Tuesday, damaging three enemy tanks and silencing their fire. In the northwestern front, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements, a munitions dump and a vehicle were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday. Iranian artillery fire inflicted substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops as they were trying to move their motorized and armoured units in Maymak, Badrabad, Hoseyniyeh and east of Basra Western and Southern Sectors, Tuesday. Exchange of artillery and mortar fire between Iranian combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd, at the southern sector.

Pakistan

Bomb Explodes Near Peshawar Iranian Center
BK141228 Hong Kong AFP in English 1214 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 14 (AFP)—A bomb exploded near an Iranian cultural centre in Pakistan late Tuesday damaging part of the complex and a nearby building, press reports said Wednesday.

The high-intensity, one kilogram bomb was in a drain in front of the huge complex in the heart of the northwestern city of Peshawar.

It went off at 8.13 p.m. (1513 GMT), partially destroying a wall and the home of the centre's chauffeur and damaging the office of a local English language newspaper, *The Frontier Post*.

The blast in the city bordering Afghanistan was the second within 24 hours, but the first aimed at an Iranian target in the wave of explosions that has hit Pakistan this year.

The explosions have been blamed by officials on Afghan agents trying to force Pakistan to abandon its support for guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed communist government in Kabul.

Mehdi Wahaj, director of the centre, blamed the United States for the attack. "The blast was carried out by American agents contriving to scuttle the Islamic revolution (in Iran)", he was quoted as saying by *The Frontier Post*. But Mr. Wahaj also did not rule out the involvement of Iranian opponents of Ayatollah Khomeyni's rule in Tehran.

A number of these have taken refuge in Pakistan and earlier this year they clashed with Khomeyni supporters in Karachi and Quetta. Six people died in the fighting.

Iran had been supporting the Afghan rebels since the communist takeover of Afghanistan in 1979. But recent reports said the Iranians had stopped assisting the rebels, or mujahedeen.

One Killed in Karachi Violence 14 Oct
BK150256 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] According to the *Associated Press of Pakistan*, the Sind government issued a statement last night which said that a procession started from Imam Bargah Shah Najaf in Karachi yesterday and passed by the (Billouri) town mosque on its scheduled route. The statement said the procession was stoned as it passed in front of the mosque and was fired on from all sides. Several persons from the procession and some bystanders were injured. Three persons were injured by gunfire, one of whom succumbed to his injuries later.

Despite the attack on the procession by people illegally assembled at the site, the procession passed along the scheduled route under the protection of law enforcement organizations. The statement added that it was the considered opinion of the Sind government that the incident could have been avoided by understanding and tolerance. The statement further said that the government still thinks an independent commission made up of senior members of the judiciary and representatives of concerned parties might serve as the best instrument for the settlement of this dispute.

Protest Lodged With DRA Envoy Over Shelling

*BK130312 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 13 Oct 87*

[Text] Afghan forces fired 21 tank shells last Tuesday [6 October] into Landi Khana area near Landi Kotal in Khyber Agency. One Pakistani was killed and seven people, including two Afghan refugees, were injured in the shelling. Pakistan lodged a strong protest with the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad yesterday over this unprovoked attack.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was also told that Pakistan rejects Afghanistan's allegation that Pakistan's armed forces fired artillery shells from Malikhel in Kurram Agency on the Gogi Afghan post in Zazi Maidan, (Ulas-wali), in Pakti Province on 27 and 28 August.

Minister Condemns Indian Action at Siachen

*BK141118 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 14 Oct 87*

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Rana Naim Mahmud, has said the Indian occupation of Siachen Glacier is an act of aggression against Pakistan and violation of various agreements between Pakistan and India.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon, he pointed out that these agreements make it clear that disputes between the two countries would be solved through peaceful means. He reaffirmed Pakistan's intentions to abide by all the agreements and seek peaceful solution to bilateral issues. But Pakistan would not give up its inherent right to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty whenever threatened.

More on Minister's Remarks on Siachen

*BK141539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 14 Oct 87*

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Rana Naim Mahmud, has said that the international border in the Siachen Glacier region has not been defined and that India's claim there on the basis of occupation is unacceptable. Talking to newsmen, he said that during the second round of talks on Siachen, India agreed that this region had not been demarcated and the matter would be

resolved through bilateral consultations. The minister of state said the next round of secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan is expected to be held in Pakistan sometime this year.

Border Trade Agreement With PRC Signed

*BK101155 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 10 Oct 87*

[Text] Pakistan and China today signed an agreement on border trade bringing the existing turnover of this trade to Pakistan at 80 million rupees, seven times more than the last year's figure. [sentence as heard] The agreement was signed in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, by the leader of the five-member Pakistan border trade delegation, Syed Ghulam Ahmed, and the head of the Chinese delegation, Mr (Hu Yanhu).

A spokesman of the Pakistani delegation later said efforts are under way to increase trade between the two countries under both cash and barter arrangements. Both countries are now engaged in the process of diversification through introducing new items of trade.

President Returns From Jordan, Turkey Visits

*BK131544 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Oct 87*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq returned to Islamabad this evening after official visits to Jordan and Turkey. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo welcomed him at the airport. Others who welcomed the president included Senate Chairman Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha, federal ministers, ministers of state, elected representatives, members of the diplomatic corps, and high civil and military officials.

Assesses Ties, Cooperation

*BK140510 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Oct 87*

[Text] Turkey and Jordan have expressed the desire for closer cooperation with Pakistan in the trade, scientific, technical, and industrial sectors. This was stated by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq when talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport after returning from his visits to Jordan, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia last night.

The president said that he was very impressed by the deep love and brotherly feelings for Pakistan among the people of these countries. On his visit to Turkey, the president said that the two sides have identified eight sectors to start joint ventures. Details will be worked out through exchanges of delegations and meetings of the Pakistan-Turkey Joint Economic Commission.

In reply to a question, the president said that both Pakistan and Turkey are interested in cooperating in defense production. The two sides have had talks on the

feasibility in this regard. He said that the Pakistan-Jordan Joint Economic Commission will formulate ways to further stabilize economic ties and to take advantage of the feelings of cordiality existing between the two countries.

The president said that he apprised the Turkish and Jordanian leaders of Pakistan's viewpoint on various regional and international issues. He said that there is a complete identity of views between the leaders of these countries and Pakistan on various issues, especially those issues faced by the Islamic world.

On his visit to Saudi Arabia, the president said that he had an exchange of views with King Fahd on the regional situation. In reply to a question, he said he hoped that the UN secretary general's recent efforts will succeed in ending the Iran-Iraq war. On Cyprus, he reaffirmed that Pakistan supports the United Nations efforts for a solution to the issue, adding that the Pakistan will continue its wholehearted support to the Turkish people on the Cyprus question. On the Middle East, he said that Pakistan fully supports the convening of a UN-sponsored international peace conference for a durable solution to the issue.

In reply to a question relating to the return of the Soviet helicopter crew which landed at Chitral last week, the president said that the step was taken by Pakistan with a desire to promote the spirit of cordiality in bilateral relations.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces, LTTE Continue Jaffna Battle

Indian Troops Advance

BK141210 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] is said to be advancing from a number of directions toward Jaffna, overcoming resistance from LTTE positions and a stronghold. A spokesperson of the Indian High Commission told a news conference in Colombo yesterday that Indian troops were encircling the Jaffna town and the points of access on the advance routes were Kankesanthurai, Chunnakam, Palaly, Urumpirai, (Kopainot), Navatkuli, and west of Jaffna from the sea side.

Lanka Puwath quoted the Indian spokesperson as saying that no air cover was being provided for the peacekeeping force during ground operation. There is no bombing, no strafing, and no helicopter shooting. He said this is a conscious decision of the Indian Government taken to avoid harming civilian population as far as possible. As a result, Indian troops are taking more casualties than they would have if the air cover was provided. The IPKF had met fierce resistance from the LTTE, but the resistance had been countered and the LTTE were on the retreat.

The spokesperson further said that the heaviest guns used so far were 120-mm mortars. Tanks and armored personnel carriers were used in areas believed to be heavily mined and booby-trapped. On a few occasions tanks have been used to neutralize LTTE bunkers and strongholds located in buildings.

The spokesperson for the Indian High Commission added that the LTTE was using civilians as a human shield. They have been forced to carry grenades and boxes of ammunition, and also take away the dead.

In the Eastern Province at (Morakottanchenai), 14 miles from Batticaloa, the Indian Peacekeeping Force had surrounded a dense jungle believed to be an LTTE hideout. The search is still going on. Eleven terrorists, three of whom are believed to be hard-core members, have been apprehended.

According to the Indian High Commission, 27 IPKF men have been killed and 143 injured since the operations started on 10 October. The number of terrorists killed is believed to be 200.

Jaffna 'Almost Surrounded'

BK141646 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] The peacekeeping forces in Sri Lanka have now almost surrounded the LTTE positions in and around Jaffna town. From the southeast, the forces crossed Jaffna lagoon at Navatkuli, and its position was within 3 km of the town. Along two other directions, from Kankesanthurai and Urumpirai, the troops are within 4 to 6 km from the town. A spokesman of the Indian High Commission told newsmen in Colombo this evening that an estimated 375,000 people have moved to designated safe spots in temples, churches, and schools in response to the call given by the peacekeeping force.

The spokesman said 7 days ration would be given to the evacuated people. He said that most of the 30 security persons who were reported missing are now believed to have been killed. With this, the death toll of the peacekeeping force has gone up to 57, with 225 injured, in the operations which started last Saturday. The spokesman said that in their anxiety to avoid civilian casualties, the peacekeeping force had to suffer more casualties than normal. He said there are bound to be some civilian casualties in operations of this nature, but the peacekeeping force is doing everything possible to minimize them.

The spokesman said reports of some strafing by helicopters at Kokkuvil has come to the notice of high commission and they are investigating the matter. The spokesman said that India has doubled its strength of naval craft for undertaking surveillance of Palk Straits.

Meanwhile, India has asked the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, to surrender all arms and declare full support to the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, if he is sincere about resuming negotiations. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, an official spokesman described the news reports that Mr Prabhakaran is sending messages to political leaders in Tamil Nadu for negotiations, as pure propaganda.

The spokesman said if his messages are genuine they could be sent directly to the Indian Government. He said India still hopes that the LTTE will even now join the process of normalization and start working for the interest of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. The spokesman recalled that Mr Prabhakaran had every chance for nearly 2 and 1/2 months to negotiate. He rather used this period to mislead the people and to carry on false propaganda.

Naval Deployment Intensified

BK150215 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0153 GMT 15 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Every possible effort was made to bring the LTTE to the mainstream, every conceivable measure taken in good faith to persuade the LTTE to mend its ways and while these genuine attempts were being made by one section, the LTTE had been all the time making preparations for war.

These observations were made by a spokesperson for the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka at a press briefing in Colombo, this evening. The spokesperson said that the LTTE openly and flagrantly violated the agreement it entered into under the peace accord.

There was no alternative for the IPKF [Indian Peace-keeping Force] but disarm the LTTE, if the necessity arose, forcibly.

It was only when the search for arms by the IPKF was obstructed by the LTTE that the IPKF was compelled to adopt the on-going operational measures. The spokesperson also said that the current operations could have been completed in 72 hours by the IPKF.

But, this swift strike had been ruled out in order to minimise loss of civil life and property.

The IPKF casualty list since 10th October up to 1400 hours (local time) today was 27 dead plus 30 missing (presumed dead) and 225 injured.

Outlining the prevailing situation the spokesperson said that in the Jaffna Peninsula the IPKF was advancing and had overrun Chunnakam and Kopay. There was intermittent fighting at Urumpirai and outside the Jaffna Fort.

Joint patrolling of the sea lanes had been intensified with the doubling of the Indian Navy deployment.

A cordon and search operation is on at Morakotanchenai, Batticaloa.

In an incident at Valachenai, 20 miles from Batticaloa, three boatloads of terrorists had approached from the sea. IPKF fire sunk one boat, the others had retreated.

About 375,000 people in the Jaffna Peninsula are now housed in schools, colleges or temples. The Sri Lanka Government has made arrangements to provide them free rations. The IPKF too has provided relief and foodstuffs.

Though the stock of foodstuff is adequate it is in its distribution that there is difficulty. There are some displaced people who cannot be even reached owing to the prevailing conditions.

Foothold in Jaffna Secured

BK141401 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT
14 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 14 (AFP)—Indian peace-keeping troops secured a foothold in Sri Lanka's strategic northern Jaffna town Wednesday and asked Tamil separatist guerrillas to surrender, the government announced here.

Indian forces had secured "a few places" in the Tamil-dominated town but fighting was still raging in Jaffna, an External Affairs Ministry official told reporters.

The Indians were making appeals over loudhailers to the guerrillas of the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) defending the town to lay down their weapons and accept the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord, the official said.

Indian troops, who number nearly 15,000 in Sri Lanka, secured the foothold in the LTTE's stronghold on the sixth straight day of fighting between the Army and Tamil guerrillas who once operated from southern India.

The official said 10 more Indian soldiers had been killed and 52 wounded in fighting in Jaffna since late Tuesday, but could not give the LTTE's losses.

Sixteen LTTE cadres were arrested following combing operations in the areas of Trincomalee and Batticaloa on the island's east, he added.

India also accused the LTTE, the biggest of six separatist groups, Wednesday of having tried to wreck the peace accord signed in Colombo on July 29 by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene to end the four-year separatist campaign which began in 1983.

An official statement said LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran would have to ensure a complete surrender of all LTTE arms and accept the peace pact if India was to call off hostilities.

It said the LTTE's reported pleas to end the fighting were "propaganda" since they had been made to Indian Tamil politicians and not to the government.

The statement also accused the LTTE of "mercilessly" killing more than 100 rival militants and over 200 Sinhalese civilians since the pact was signed.

Mr. Prabhakaran sent a written appeal Tuesday to Mukundan Karunanidhi, a former chief minister of India's Tamil Nadu State, asking him to request India to stop its military thrust into Jaffna.

"It must be remembered that Mr. Prabhakaran had every chance for nearly two-and-a-half months to negotiate sincerely," the statement said.

"He only used this period to prevaricate, to carry on false propaganda and to try to whip up mass hysteria against India, the Indian Peace-keeping Force and the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

"Even when all his demands were accepted, he merely put forward further demands. His sole objective was to sabotage the agreement and to grab exclusive powers for himself.

"We still hope that the LTTE will even now join this process and start working for the interests of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka rather than pursue its own self-aggrandizement and declare his full support to the agreement."

Observers here said the strongly-worded statement seemed to indicate that India would not accept anything short of a total surrender by the LTTE, which had about 3,000 guerrillas during the campaign for a Tamil homeland.

Meanwhile, Mr. Prabhakaran, now holed up in Jaffna, appealed to Mr. Gandhi Wednesday to call off the Indian attacks and resume negotiations with the LTTE to bring about "peace, normality and ethnic harmony."

The *Press Trust of India* quoted him as saying in a letter from Jaffna: "We pledge to cooperate with India to implement the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement in so far as it is in the interest of the Tamils." But he added that the LTTE still had "some serious reservations" about the pact.

The four-page letter was released to the press in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu, where all Sri Lankan militant groups have offices.

Mr. Gandhi is now attending the Commonwealth summit in Canada.

The Indian High Commission spokesman did not give any civilian casualty figures, but acknowledged: "There have been civilian casualties. There are bound to be in an operation like this."

He said about 375,000 civilians had entered camps on the peninsula, as requested by the authorities in an attempt to minimise civilian losses.

But he said "quite a lot" of people were still in Jaffna town.

The population of Jaffna District, which includes some areas south of the peninsula, is about 830,000, according to government statistics.

The high commission spokesman did not say how many camps had been set up or describe their conditions.

But he said distribution of food was a problem and several camps were behind rebel lines.

The Indian Peace-keeping Force had intercepted messages from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam calling on all its fighters to converge on Jaffna, the spokesman said, but again without giving details.

Troops Link With Commandos

*BK141305 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 14 Oct 87*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, fighting is continuing between the peacekeeping force and the LTTE men on all fronts leading to Jaffna town. The peacekeeping force cleared the LTTE stronghold near (Gopalnath) after repulsing their resistance.

Twenty-five LTTE men were killed in the operations. The peacekeeping force retaliated against the unprovoked firing of LTTE men near Urumpirai and advanced toward Jaffna town, establishing link with the para-commandos inflicting heavy casualties on LTTE. The peacekeeping force also raided LTTE camp at (Kalmadu Kulam) and apprehended two LTTE men near Vavuniya.

LTTE Positions Penetrated

*BK150334 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Oct 87*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has broken through LTTE positions at a number of places around Jaffna and the dragnet on the LTTE strongholds in the heart of the town is closing further.

The peacekeeping force yesterday inflicted heavy casualties on LTTE strongholds in the north. On another front, the peacekeeping force has sealed the only railroad causeway on the outskirts of the town. More than 50 LTTE men were killed in yesterday's operation. One soldier of the peacekeeping force was also killed. The peacekeeping force destroyed the ammunition dump of LTTE at (Martama Madru) and

killed three LTTE men. In the Eastern Province, a militant camp about 25 km from Batticaloa was raided by the peacekeeping force on Tuesday [13 October]. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized.

Conditions in Jaffna Described as 'Appalling'
BK150622 London BBC World Service in English
0015 GMT 15 Oct 87

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] We turn first to Sri Lanka where Indian forces appear to be tightening their grip on Jaffna, the stronghold of the Tamil Tigers in the north of the island. Casualties are said to be high and conditions within Jaffna are now giving cause for serious concern. As John Rettie reports from Colombo:

[Begin Rettie recording] Of the four Indian columns moving toward Jaffna, the one approaching from the east appears to have reached the nearest point at the center of the town. Indian forces now have Jaffna tightly encircled, but they are approaching the most heavily built-up and populated areas. Eyewitnesses, who contacted the BBC from Jaffna, say that there have been many civilian casualties and conditions in the town are appalling. One independent professional man in Jaffna said there had been no electricity for 4 days and sanitation had broken down.

He said the hospital was without oxygen, diesel fuel for its generator, and bandages, and it could no longer conduct operations. It had been hit by seven shells on Monday, but although damage to buildings had been done, there were no casualties. More than 300 wounded people had been brought to the hospital, almost all of them believed to be civilians. There were [word indistinct] 76 bodies.

About 100 more civilians were believed to have been killed elsewhere in the town. This Jaffna resident agreed with the Indian High Commission spokesman's figure of a total of about 375,000 refugees in the peninsula and said that about 40,000 of them were in one Hindu temple alone. The spokesman said many of them were without shelter and there had been heavy rains in the area, which has also impeded military operations. [end recording]

JVP Gunmen Assassinate District Council Member
BK150941 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0921 GMT 15 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 15 (*Lanka Puwath*)—United National Party (UNP) district council member, Moratuwa, was shot dead last night by Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) gunmen, police told *Lanka Puwath*.

Assistant superintendent of police Moratuwa, T Manoharan, said that two gunmen believed to be members of the JVP, wearing helmets had ridden up to the victim, Gamini Fernando about 8 o'clock last night and shot him dead at point blank range with a machine gun.

Investigations are being made by the police.

Indian Troops Seize Weapons in Batticaloa
BK141555 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1520 GMT 14 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 15 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Indian Peace-keeping Force (IPKF) captured a large haul of weapons and logistics when they raided the base of an LTTE leader Das in the Batticaloa District.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that last night IPKF had raided the Tirukovil base in the Batticaloa District and captured landmines, uniforms, 24 grenades, secret LTTE documents, detonators, electric plungers, civilian clothes and even a motorcycle crash helmet of the LTTE leader Das.

20 Indian Soldiers Killed in Land Mine Blast
BK150925 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0905 GMT 15 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 15 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Twenty soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force were reported killed when a truck they were travelling in was blown up by a LTTE terrorist landmine this morning at Eravur 10 miles south of Batticaloa town in eastern Sri Lanka, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.

They said the tragedy occurred at Malambaweli about 0745 hours (local time) today.

3 Soldiers Killed by LTTE Land Mine
BK150933 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0907 GMT 15 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 15 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Three Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and seven wounded by a LTTE terrorist landmine at Trincomalee this morning.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the landmine explosion took place at 0930 hours (local time) on the Trincomalee/Anuradhapura road.

LTTE Kills 10 Sinhalese Villagers in Kantale
BK150937 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0911 GMT 15 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 15 (*Lanka Puwath*)—LTTE terrorists raided the farming village of Ellakanda in Kantale, eastern Sri Lanka and killed 10 Sinhalese villagers, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*.